

and K. T. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W., and of the G. A. R. In politics he is a Republican.

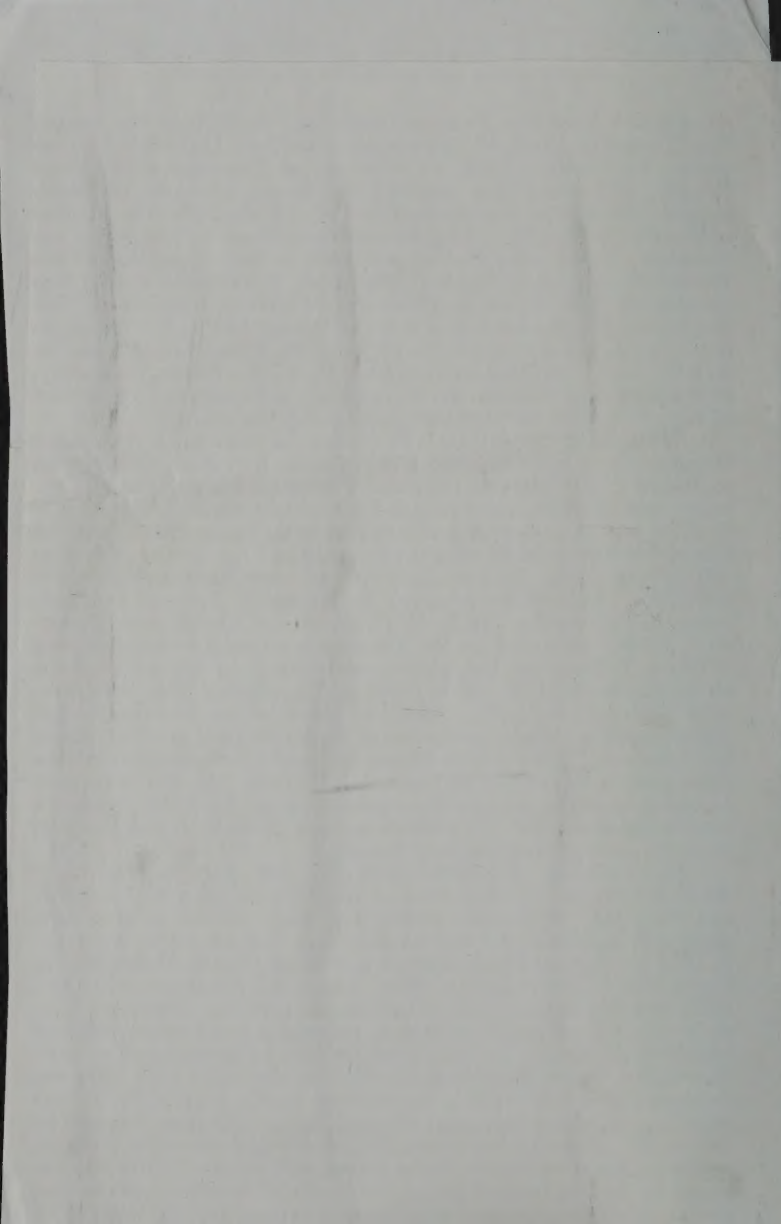
JACOB KRAMER was born in Palmyra, Penn., February 8, 1811. He moved to Indiana in about 1840, and engaged as contractor, building the macadamized roads from New Albany to Bloomington until the financial crisis in which that State became bankrupt and he lost all. Soon after, he came to Edwards County, Ill. Being a carpenter by trade, he first built a mill for K. Clodfelter. May 31, 1842, he married Miss Abigail Lewis, a native of Clark County, Ind., and born September 15, 1821. She died February 4, 1882, a member of the Methodist Church. After remaining twenty-three years in Edwards County, Mr. Kramer, in 1865, came to Olney where he engaged in the hardware business, in which he continued until compelled to abandon it on account of heart disease, which finally resulted in his death which occurred July 10, 1882. While in Edwards County Mr. K. served as Judge of that county, with distinction. He was also one of the first directors of the First National Bank of Olney, and afterwards became president. The last two years of his life were passed in the capacity as director of public schools of Olney. He was considered one of Olney's most successful financiers. In politics he was a Republican. Louis Kramer, the only living child of Jacob and Abigail (Lewis) Kramer, was born in Edwards County, Ill., March 2, 1860. In 1877, he embarked in the lumber business, the firm being Kramer & Hurn. He bids fair to make a successful financier and business man.

JOHN KUSTER, Deputy Circuit Clerk, was born in Berne, Switzerland, on November 20, 1820, and is the second of the eleven children born to Casper and Barbara (Sterchi) Kuster, natives of Switzerland, and of French and German descent. Casper was a cabinet maker and house joiner. He worked at his trade for a time and then joined the Swiss regular army. In 1833, he emigrated with his wife to the United States, and came to Minerva, Stark Co., Ohio, where he followed his trade for three or four years, and then moved to Carroll County, in the same State, and lived there, following his trade until his death in 1839. He and his wife were members of the German Reformed Church. John received a fair education in his native land, but had no further opportunity for attending school after his parents came to America, but, by his exertions, has improved himself and acquired a great deal of practical knowledge of the English language. He learned both the stone cutters' and carpenters' trades, in early life. After the death of his father the support of his mother and her five younger children devolved upon him. In 1841 they moved to German Township, in this county, settling near Stringtown. They were very poor, as were almost always new settlers. John Kuster engaged here in agricultural pursuits, and in 1846, purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he erected a cabin and improved a farm, adding more land from time to time as he was able to do so, until he owns about 200 acres in all. He has himself erected a good frame dwelling upon this land which is situated in

what is now known as Preston Township. In 1859, he was elected first Township Clerk, of that township, and held that office for nine years. In October, 1863, he was elected Treasurer of Richland County, and soon after removed to Olney, where he has since resided. Mr. Kuster was married, in 1845, to Mary Peebles, a native of Hardin County, Ky. They had two daughters, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Kuster died June 4, 1879, in the communion of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On April 2, 1882, Mr. Kuster was married to Mrs. Sarah A. (Stewart) Whitaker, a native of New England. Mr. Kuster is a member of Olney Lodge, No. 140, A. F. & A. M., Richland Chapter, No. 38, R. A. M., Olney Council, No. 55, R. & S. M., Gorin Commandery, No. 15, K. T., Peoria Consistory, of Scottish Rite Masons; and in politics is a Democrat. He is one of the old settlers and prominent citizens of the county.

WILLIAM T. LAMPTON, M. D., was born in Breckenridge County, Ky., August 27, 1855, and is the third of four children born to Henry T. and Mary C. (Browne) Lampton, both natives of Kentucky and of English and Scotch-Irish descent, respectively. Henry T. Lampton was educated and married in his native State. At the age of twenty-five he entered the ministry and has continued in that calling ever since. He was one of the pioneer Baptist ministers of Kentucky. In 1876, he removed to Rockport, Spencer Co., Ind., where he still resides. He is also a member of the Masonic Fraternity, having advanced to the Consistory, or thirty-second degree. William T. Lampton, the subject, received a good education at the common schools of his native State, and graduated from the Louisville University, in 1878. Some two years before, however, he had commenced the study of medicine, at Rockport, Ind., reading during his vacations. He graduated from the medical department of the Transylvania University, at Louisville, in 1880. In the same year he commenced the practice of his profession at Olney, Ill., where he has had good success. In politics he is a Democrat, and is one of the enterprising young men of the city.

FREDERICK LANDENBERGER was born in Germany April 7, 1850, and is the second of six children born to George F. and Mary M. (Streich) Landenberger, both natives of Germany. George F. Landenberger was a turner and cabinet maker by trade. In 1854 he emigrated with his wife and family to the United States, first settling at Circleville, Ohio, where he remained until 1859, when he came to Olney, Ill., where he still resides. Frederick Landenberger, the subject of our sketch, received a good common school education in youth. At the age of thirteen he commenced to learn telegraphy, and was employed at that business until 1868. He was then appointed bill clerk in the office of the O. & M. R. R., at East Saint Louis, where he remained until 1872. He then returned to Olney, Ill., where he went into the grocery and provision trade, at which he has since been doing an extensive business. He is also engaged in buying and shipping all kinds of country produce and grain. His average annual sales amount to from \$40,000 to \$50,000.



needs to be documented

Ancestor Chart

(64) Anthony Henckel c1500

Name of Compiler S. Hannaford

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

(32) Ludwig Henckel c1535 Chart No. _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Date _____

4 George Henckel

(Father of No. 2)

b. 1635

p.b. Prob. Allendorf-ad-Lumbda

m. 2 May 1666/near Giessen Ger.

d.

p.d. Bur: Menrenberg Ger.

Antonius Jacobus Henckel

2 Anthony Jacob Henkel

(Father of No. 1)

b. 1668

p.b.

m.

d. August 1728

p.d. Barren Hill PA

5 Anna Eulalia Dentzer

(Mother of No. 2)

b. 1604

p.b.

d. 1700 Bur: Steinberg Ger

p.d.

John Justus Henckel

b. 1706

p.b. Germany

m.

d. 1778

Immigrated 1717 PA

p.d.

6

(Father of No. 3)

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

3 Marie Elizabeth Dentzer

(Mother of No. 1)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

7

(Mother of No. 3)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

Marie Magdaline Kochman

(Spouse of No. 1)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

8 Mathias Henckel

(Father of No. 4)

b. 1605 Allensdorf-ad-Lumbda

p.b. in Hesse-Darmstadt, Ger.

m.

d.

p.d.

9

(Mother of No. 4)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

10

Othmar Dentzer

(Father of No. 5)

b.

p.b.

m. 6 Nov 1626 Brikenau Ger

d. Bur: 25 Aug 1676

p.d. Steinberg Ger.

11

Louisa Wagner

(Mother of No. 5)

b. 1605

p.b. Prob. Ranisch-Holzhausen

d. 5 Nov 1676

p.d. Steinberg Ger

12

(Father of No. 6)

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

13

(Mother of No. 6)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

14

(Father of No. 7)

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

15

(Mother of No. 7)

b.

p.b.

d.

16 Casper Henckel

b. 1576

(Father of No. 8)

m. Hesse-Darmstadt, Ger.

d. 2 Mar 1651 age 75yr

17

(Mother of No. 8)

b.

d.

18

(Father of No. 9)

b.

m.

d.

19

(Mother of No. 9)

b.

d.

20

(Father of No. 10)

b.

m.

d.

21

(Mother of No. 10)

b.

d.

22

Ludwig Wagner

Wagner

b. 1572 Marburg

(Father of No. 11)

m.

d. 1633

23

(Mother of No. 11)

b.

d.

24

(Father of No. 12)

b.

m.

d.

25

(Mother of No. 12)

b.

d.

26

(Father of No. 13)

b.

m.

d.

27

(Mother of No. 13)

b.

d.

28

(Father of No. 14)

b.

m.

d.

29

(Mother of No. 14)

b.

d.

30

(Father of No. 15)

b.

m.

d.

31

(Mother of No. 15)

b.

d.

Needs to be documented *Ancestor Chart*

Name of Compiler _____ Person No. 1 on this chart is the same Chart No. _____

Address _____ person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

City, State _____

Date _____

4 _____
(Father of No. 2)

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

(Father of No. 2)

2 Abraham Kochman

b. 1695

p.b.

m.

d. 1749

p.d.

German or Swiss to PA
18th Cent. 10

(Father of No. 1)

5

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 2)

Marie Magdaline Kochman/Eschmann

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

6

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

(Father of No. 3)

3 Elizabeth

b. c1695

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 1)

7

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 3)

(Spouse of No. 1)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

8

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

(Father of No. 4)

9

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 4)

11

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 5)

12

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

(Father of No. 6)

13

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 6)

14

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

(Father of No. 7)

15

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

(Mother of No. 7)

16

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

17

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

18

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

19

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

20

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

21

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

22

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

23

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

24

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

25

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

26

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

27

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

28

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

29

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

30

b.

m.

d.

(Father of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

31

b.

d.

(Mother of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)



S. Hannaford
Name of Compiler _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Date _____

Ancestor Chart needs to be documented
Person No. 1 on this chart is the same
person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

Chart No. _____

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death

2 Hugh Dun

(Father of No. 1)
b. 1640
p.b. England
m. 19 Dec 1670 Middlesex Co. NJ
d. 16 Nov 1694 Middlesex Co. NJ
p.d. Piscataway

(Mother of No. 2)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

Martha Dunn

b. 13 Jul 1681
p.b. Piscataway, Middlesex Co. NJ
m. 1698
d. 1738
p.d.

6 Capt. Francis Drake

(Father of No. 3)
b. 1615
p.b. Devonshire, Eng
m. c1650
d. 24 Sept 1687
p.d. Piscataway, Middlesex Co. NJ

3 Elizabeth Drake

(Mother of No. 1)
b. c1653
p.b. Portsmouth NH
d. c1711
p.d. Piscataway, Middlesex Co. NJ

7 Mary Walker

(Mother of No. 3)
b.
p.b. Co. Meath, Ireland
d. 29 Jul 1688
p.d. Piscataway, Middlesex Co. NJ

Thomas Runyan

(Spouse of No. 1)
b. 1675
p.b. New Jersey
d. 1753
p.d. Hunterdon Co. NJ

8
b. (Father of No. 4)
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.
9
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

(Father of No. 5)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.
11
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

12 Robert Drake

(Father of No. 6)
b. 1580
p.b. Devonshire, Eng
m.
d. 14 Jan 1668
p.d. Exeter, NJ
13 Ann Atte/Knopp
(Mother of No. 6)

p.b.
d. Bef. 1638
p.d. England

14 George Walker

(Father of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.
15
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

16
b. (Father of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
17
b. (Mother of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.
18
b. (Father of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
19
b. (Mother of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.
20
b. (Father of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
21
b. (Mother of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.
22
b. (Father of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
23
b. (Mother of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.
24 William Drake
b. c1550 (Father of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m. 12 Oct 1578 Halstead, Eng
d. Bef. 1616 Essex Co. Eng
Joane Merrylls
25
b. c1557 Essex Co. Eng (Mother of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d. Will 16 Mar 1616 Essex Eng.
26
b. (Father of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
27
b. (Mother of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.
28
b. (Father of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
29
b. (Mother of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.
30
b. (Father of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____
m.
d.
31
b. (Mother of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____
d.

Name of Compiler S. Hannaford
Address _____
City, State _____
Date _____

Ancestor Chart needs to be documented
Person No. 1 on this chart is the same
person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

Chart No. _____

4 Paulus Kuster

(Father of No. 2)
b. 1640/1646
p.b. Kaldenkirchen, Germany
m. 16 Oct 1668 " "
d. Jan/Feb 1707/08
p.d. Philadelphia PA

2 Arnold Kuster

(Father of No. 1)
b. 9 Sept 1669
p.b. Crefeld bpt: Kaldenkirchen
m. c1684 (Mennonite) Germany
d. 1739
p.d. Manatawney, Mont. Co. PA

5 Gertrude Doors

(Mother of No. 2)
b. c1645
p.b. Kaldenkirchen, Germany
d. bef. 23 Feb 1708
p.d. Philadelphia, PA

Conrad Custer

b. c1685
p.b. Germantown PA
m. c1713
d. 1 Feb 1772
p.d. Augusta Co. VA

8

(Father of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

3 Rebecca Nuzam ?????

(Mother of No. 1)

b.
p.b.
d. 1731
p.d. Berks Co. PA Hanover Twp.

7

(Mother of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

Susannah Adams

(Spouse of No. 1)

b. c1691 d. c1747
p.b. Montgomery PA p.d.

8 Aret/Arnold Kuster

(Father of No. 4)
b. 18 Sept 1614
p.b. Kaldenkirchen, Germany
m. 13 Oct 1629 " "
d. 24 Nov 1679

9 Catharine Von Haren

(Mother of No. 4)

b.
p.b.
d. 24 Jan 1674 or 15 Nov 1686
p.d.

10 Matthias/Theiss Doors/Dahrs

(Father of No. 5)

b. 18 Sept 1614
p.b. Kaldenkirchen, Germany
m.
d. (Roman Cath. & Mennonite)
p.d.

11 Neessgen/Agnes

(Mother of No. 5)

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

12

(Father of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

13

(Mother of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

14

(Father of No. 7)
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

15

(Mother of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

16 Johannes Kuster/Custodis

(Father of No. 8)
b. 1576 Kal. Ger
m. 1598 " " (Roman Cath.)
d. 8 Apr 1650 "

17 Walpurgis/Walburgis

(Mother of No. 8)
Cont. on chart No. _____

18 Christopher VonHaren

(Father of No. 9)
Cont. on chart No. _____

19

(Mother of No. 9)
Cont. on chart No. _____

20 Peter Doors

(Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

21 Elizabeth Grietes/Lysgen

(Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

22

(Father of No. 11)
Cont. on chart No. _____

23

(Mother of No. 11)
Cont. on chart No. _____

24

(Father of No. 12)
Cont. on chart No. _____

25

(Mother of No. 12)
Cont. on chart No. _____

26

(Father of No. 13)
Cont. on chart No. _____

27

(Mother of No. 13)
Cont. on chart No. _____

28

(Father of No. 14)
Cont. on chart No. _____

29

(Mother of No. 14)
Cont. on chart No. _____

30

(Father of No. 15)
Cont. on chart No. _____

31

(Mother of No. 15)
Cont. on chart No. _____

Name of Compiler S. Hannaford
Address _____
City, State _____
Date _____

Ancestor Chart needs to be documented
Person No. 1 on this chart is the same
person as No. _____ on chart No. _____.

Chart No. _____

4 John Adams ?????

(Father of No. 2)

b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

2 Richard Adams

(Father of No. 1)

b.
p.b. England
m. Bef. 10 Oct 1698 England
d. Jan/Feb 1747
p.d. Providence Twp. Mont. Co. PA
m. 2 Alse

5

(Mother of No. 2)

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

Susannah Adams

b. c1691
p.b. Montgomery Co. PA
m. c1713
d. c1747
p.d.

6 Abraham Op Den Graeff

(Father of No. 3)

b. c1660
p.b. Germany
m. 1679 Germany
d. Mar 1731
p.d. Perkiomen, Mont. Co. PA

3 Gertien Op Den Graeff

(Mother of No. 1)

b. c1680
p.b. Poss. Krefeld, Germany
d.
p.d.

7 Trintgen/Katharina Jensen

(Mother of No. 3)

b.
p.b. Gladbach
d. Bet. 10/6/1685 & 3/22/1687
p.d.

Conrad Custer

(Spouse of No. 1)

b. c1685
p.b. Germantown PA
d. 1 Feb 1772
p.d. Augusta Co. VA

8

(Father of No. 4)

b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

9

(Mother of No. 4)

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

10

(Father of No. 5)

b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

11

(Mother of No. 5)

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

12

Isaac Hermans OpDen Graeff

(Father of No. 6)

b. 23 Feb 1616
p.b. Germany
m.
d. 17 Jan 1679
p.d.

13

Greitjen Peiters

(Mother of No. 6)

b.
p.b.
d. 19 Nov 1683
p.d. Philadelphia PA

14

Jacob Jensen???

(Father of No. 7)

b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

15

Gertien ??????

(Mother of No. 7)

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

16

b. (Father of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

17

b. (Mother of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

18

b. (Father of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

19

b. (Mother of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

20

b. (Father of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

21

b. (Mother of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

22

b. (Father of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

23

b. (Mother of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

24

Herman Op Den Graeff

b. 1585 Alderkerk (Father of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m. 1605 " Germany

d. 1642 Krefeld, Germany

25

Greitje Plejes

b. 1588 Kempen (Mother of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

d. 1643 d/o Driessen Pletjes &
Alet Gobels d/o

26

b. (Father of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

27

b. (Mother of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

28

b. (Father of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

29

b. (Mother of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

30

b. (Father of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

31

b. (Mother of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

31

b. (Mother of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

THE PICTURE POSTED IS -NOT- A PICTURE OF JOSEPH. IT IS A COMPOSITE OF TWO OR THREE GRANDSON'S TO GIVE AN IDEA OF WHAT JOSEPH MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE. IT WAS DONE BY THE OWNER OF A CHEUVRONT RECORD NO LONGER ON THE WEB. The person who posted this picture has been asked to indicate the above in her note. (lt 9/6/17)

View Cenotaph [HERE](#).

Family Members

Spouses

-  Elizabeth *Ellsworth* Cheuvront
1759-1800
-  Sarah *Bollen* Cheuvront
1780-1864

Children

MARY ELIZABETH

-  Catherine *Cheuvront* Stanley
1779 - unknown
-  Aaron Charles Cheuvront
1780-1863
-  Joseph Louis Cheuvront
1783-1800
-  Priscilla *Cheuvront* Powers
1785-1850
-  Moses Cheuvront
1787-1802
-  Simeon Cheuvront
1790-1800
-  Caleb Cheuvront
1792-1865
-  Amos Cheuvront
1794-1873
-  Gideon Cheuvront
1796-1842
-  James Liteford Cheuvront
1798-1840
-  Cassandra Cheuvront
1812-1839
-  Daniel Hitt Cheuvront
1821 - unknown

Inscription

A military stone was placed by the DAR in the Good Hope Masonic Cemetery, Good Hope, Harrison County, WV. It would be a cenotaph as his remains have never been moved from the family cemetery. Transcription of the military stone: Joseph Cheuvront, Pvt., Continental Lines, Rev. War, Feb. 2, 1757. Aug. 12 1832. See 166479968 to view the military marker which honors his service. (lt)

Gravesite Details GRAVESTONE IN THE FAMILY BURIAL GROUND HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

Created by: Louise Taraba

Added: 12 Apr 2014

Find A Grave Memorial **127859078**

Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 December 2019), memorial page for Rev Joseph Louis Cheuvront, Sr (1 Feb 1757-12 Aug 1832), Find A Grave Memorial no. 127859078, citing Cheuvront Family Graveyard (Defunct), Goodhope, Harrison County, West Virginia, USA ; Maintained by Louise Taraba (contributor 47677075) .

1778 when the Methodist missionaries came to the Germany Valley area, he united with the "despised Methodist" and served the Church for 53 years. He started as a class leader, then exhorter, local preacher, traveling preacher (circuit rider), deacon, elder, and recording steward. By about 1780 he was licensed a local preacher.

During the Revolutionary War it is found that Joseph served the Fort Hinkle Militia in 1775 under Capt. John Skidmore. Although not sourced, it has been stated: "Joseph Cheuvront was called out with the VA Militia in April, 1780 when requisition was made on the state of Virginia for 300 men in the American Army of the Revolution. He served until, and was present at, the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, VA, on Oct. 1781." In an excerpt from a letter written by Rev. Isaac Robbins to Bishop Asbury, 1813, concerning the death of the Reverend Lasley Matthews (brother-in-law of Joseph), Matthews dated his turning to God in the fall that Cornwallis was taken, "through the instrumentality of Brother Joseph Cheuvront, who used to carry a Bible in his pocket and read to him and converse with him pertaining to the kingdom God."

Joseph was ordained into the Methodist ministry at the Conference meeting in Uniontown, PA on July 29, 1790 after serving about 10 years as a licensed local preacher. He gave bond to perform marriages on Sept. 20, 1790 in Harrison Co., VA (WV). His first marriage was that of David Bennett and Christina Bumgardner, April 5, 1791. Then on April 11 of that year he officiated at the marriage of Edmund West [Jr.] and Catherine Ellsworth, his wife's niece, daughter of Jacob Ellsworth.

As a minister of the Methodist church, Joseph's work extended to different circuits of counties around Harrison Co., VA and Ohio, but his initial ministry was confined to the backwoods settlements on the West Fork River. Here the first Methodist church services were held in homes since about 1786, under the leadership of Moses Ellsworth. Joseph Cheuvront was instrumental in preparing the deed for the land donated February 14, 1802 to the Methodist Episcopal Church by John and Mary (Richards) Ellsworth. This land was located on the West Fork near present day Good Hope and was for a church building and cemetery. The church was built in 1802 and was known as the "Elsworth Meeting House" and was that name for years after the Ellsworths moved to Ohio. Joseph preached here prior to the church being built and following. Later the church, which no longer stands by the cemetery, was called Bethel Church.

Joseph Cheuvront wrote many deeds in the exchange of property. He was an unusually good penman for any time. He was regarded as a very eloquent preacher by those of his community and others. Even the Rev. Henry Smith of the Baltimore Conference who visited the Clarksburg Circuit in 1794 stated: "...Brother Cheuvront in the moccasins could have preached all around me..." Joseph was elected "Overseer" of the Poor Upper District in Harrison County. His bravery during Indian raids could match no other. With seemingly little fear, he assisted families to safety when threats of danger were present. His own family managed to escape any tragedies. He taught the first school-a subscription school-in the now Good Hope community.

According to J. Howard Cheuvront: "He [Joseph] was a man of medium statue, with very black eyes and hair, in his younger days, but becoming gray and bald in later life. He was always a student..."

Our love and respect for the Reverend Joseph Louis Cheuvront.

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46843245

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Photo added by Bobbi Tindle

Elizabeth Runyan Bennett

BIRTH	1780
DEATH	28 Feb 1849 (aged 68–69)
BURIAL	Rossburg Cemetery Morrow, Warren County, Ohio, USA
MEMORIAL ID	14420175 · View Source

Wife of William Bennett. Aged 69 years. I believe she is the d/o William and Catherine (Custer) Runyan.

Family Members

Parents

-  William Runyan
1751–1833
-  Catherine Custer Runyan
1747–1826

Siblings

-  Henry Runyan
1777–1858
-  David Runyan
1793–1860

Spouse

-  William Bennett
1778–1864 (m. (marriage) 1799)

Children

-  Sarah Bennett Thompson
1800–1874
-  Hannah Bennett Doughman
1802–1876
-  Elizabeth Bennett Smith
1805–1840
-  Benjamin Bennett
1807–1885
-  Isaac Bennett
1809–1875
-  Silas L Bennett
1812–1888
-  Moses Wesley Bennett
1820–1845
-  George Bennett
1821–1849

Created by: Bobbi Tindle

Added: 26 May 2006

Find A Grave Memorial **14420175**

Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 17 September 2019), memorial page for Elizabeth Runyan Bennett (1780–28 Feb 1849), Find A Grave Memorial no. 14420175, citing Rossburg Cemetery, Morrow, Warren County, Ohio, USA ; Maintained by Bobbi Tindle (contributor 46843245) .



Photo added by Mary Tucker

Rev Joseph Louis Cheuvront, Sr

BIRTH	1 Feb 1757 Alsace, France
DEATH	12 Aug 1832 (aged 75) Goodhope, Harrison County, West Virginia, USA
BURIAL	Cheuvront Family Graveyard (Defunct) Goodhope, Harrison County, West Virginia, USA
MEMORIAL ID	127859078 · View Source

The notable Joseph Louis Cheuvront was born 1 February 1757 (christened on the 2nd) at Strasbourg, Alsace, France, son of Francis Cheuvront and Nicole Febrve Cheuvront. He died about 12 August 1832 in Harrison County, Virginia (WV), and was buried on the old Cheuvront farm beside his first wife, located in the Good Hope community. Joseph was reared and received his education in the city of Nantes, France.

According to family tradition, he was educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood, but he denounced this faith and was disowned and disinherited by his family. At the age of about 15 he left home and went to England. In London, he studied English while employed as Gilder (goldsmith). While he was fluent in six different languages, including Greek and Hebrew, he was not familiar with English.

He arrived in America in early 1774. A photocopy of an unknown source, says he left London on the ship Virginia in December 1773 for America and lists him as "Cheuvrant, Jos, age 20, Gilder from London." His birth date and date he left London does not correspond with age given. An unknown source has the ship arriving at New York City. Not sure when or how this got started, but why would a ship belonging to Virginia bring young men to America as indentured servants to Virginia farmers dock in New York City? In Joseph's own words to his children to be passed down through the generations: "In the year 1771 being in the fifteenth year of my age, I went to England where I remained until 1773 when I embarked for America and landed at Fredericksburg in Virginia AD 1774, and was converted to God in the following year."

Upon arriving in America, Joseph was bound to Moses Ellsworth/Elsworth, Sr., who paid his fair. The Ellsworth family lived in Augusta County, Virginia (area now Germany Valley in Pendleton Co., WV, near Riverton), where Moses owned his farm. Joseph became a part of the Ellsworth family and it was here he learned how to farm, as he put in his time for Mr. Ellsworth. Family tradition has it that Joseph also tutored the Ellsworth children.

In February 1777, Augusta Co., Virginia (now Pendleton Co., WV), Joseph married Elizabeth Ellsworth, daughter of Moses Ellsworth, Sr. and Anna Maria Elizabeth Henckel Ellsworth. To this union they were blessed with eleven children: Mary Elizabeth, Catherine, Aaron, Joseph Jr., Priscilla, Moses, Simeon, Caleb, Amos, Gideon, and James Liteford. Elizabeth passed away 18 August 1800 of typhoid fever, just six days following the death of their son, Joseph Jr.

After the death of Elizabeth, Joseph was assigned the Muskingum and Hockhoekin Circuit in Ohio, with some 30 preaching places. According to Rev. J.A. Earl, he organized the first Methodist Church in Randolph County, Ohio. While working this circuit, Joseph met and married his second wife Sarah Bollen on 26 January 1802 at Painesville, Ohio. Sarah was born in Pennsylvania and was 26 years his junior. They were parents of four children: Thomas, Enoch, Cassandra and Daniel Hitt.

Joseph stated he was converted to God the year following his arrival in 1774. About

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City, State _____

Ancestor Chart needs to be documented
Person No. 1 on this chart is the same
person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

Chart No. _____

Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Date of Marriage
Date of Death
Place of Death

4 John Runyan
(Father of No. 2)
b. 1747
p.b. New Jersey
m. c1771
d. 7 Dec 1807
p.d. Clarksburg, Harrison Co. VA

2 William Runyan
(Father of No. 1)
b. c1773
p.b. VA
m. 1801 Harrison Co. VA
d. Ret:1850/1860
p.d. Prob. Edgar Co. IL

5 Susannah Custer
(Mother of No. 2)
b. 25 Apr 1748
p.b. VA
d. 12 Sept 1823
p.d. Clark Co. OH

Katharine Runyan

b. c1812
p.b. Ohio
m. 14 Jun 1832 Warren Co. OH
d. Ret:1860/1865
p.d. Prob. Henry Co. IL

6 Joseph Cheuvront
(Father of No. 3)
b. France
p.b.
m.
d. 1832
p.d.

3 Mary Elizabeth Cheuvront
(Mother of No. 1)
b. 8 Dec 1777
p.b. GERMAN VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA
d.
p.d.

7 Elizabeth Elsworth
(Mother of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

Abraham Bennett
(Spouse of No. 1)

03/1811 d. 1 Jan 1879
p.d. Fulton Co. IL

8 Joseph Runyan
(Father of No. 4)
b. c1704
p.b. New Jersey
m.
d.
p.d.
9 Elizabeth ???
(Mother of No. 4)

b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

10 Arnold Custer
(Father of No. 5)
b. c1718
p.b. Prob. Philadelphia PA
m.
d. March 1759 Augusta Co. VA
p.d. Augusta Co. VA

11 Bridget Strauder
(Mother of No. 5)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

12
(Father of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

13
(Mother of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

14 Moses Elsworth
(Father of No. 7)
b. c1730
p.b.
m. 1750 Rowan Co. NC
d. Jan 1802 Harrison Co. VA
p.d. Coburn's Creek

15 Anna Maria Elizabeth Henckel
(Mother of No. 7)
bchr: 22 Aug 1731
p.b. Montgomery Co. PA ???
d. Clark Co. OH
p.d.

16 Thomas Runyan
(Father of No. 8)
b. 1675 NJ
m. 1698
d. April 1753 Hunterdon Co. NJ
17 Martha Dunn
(Mother of No. 8)
b. 13 Jul 1681
d. 1738

18
(Father of No. 9)
b.
m.
d.
19
(Mother of No. 9)
b.
d.

20 Conrad Custer
(Father of No. 10)
b. c1685 Germantown
m. c1713
d. 1 Feb 1772 Augusta Co. VA
21 Susannah Adams
(Mother of No. 10)
b. c1691 Montgomery PA
d. c1747

22
(Father of No. 11)
b.
m.
d.
23
(Mother of No. 11)
b.
d.

24
(Father of No. 12)
b.
m.
d.

25
(Mother of No. 12)
b.
d.

26
(Father of No. 13)
b.
m.
d.

27
(Mother of No. 13)
b.
d.

28
(Father of No. 14)
b.
m.
d.

29
(Mother of No. 14)
b.
d.

30 John Justus Henckel
(Father of No. 15)
b.
d.

31 or Marie Magdaline
Magdalena Eschmann/Kochman
(Mother of No. 15)
d. d/o Abraham Kochman
1695-1749

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Posted 16 Feb 2013 by scarlettbishop61

JOSEPHCHEUVRONT'S BIBLE

...

These are two pages scanned from photo copies of Joseph's original Bible. The Bible is part of the collection of the Methodist Historical Society, West Virginia Wesleyan College Library in Buckhannon, W.V. Rev. Wesley L. Cheuvront's widow donated this "new bible" (as Joseph called it in his 1832 will) to the historical society in about 1967.

This is what is written on the 2nd page, behind the title page, in Joseph's hand:

Record of births

Joseph Cheuvront was born the 2nd day of February 1757

Elizabeth Elsworth his first wife was born 20th of March 1759

Children's ages

Mary Elizabeth was born 8th of December 1777

Catharine was born 29th of September 1779

Aaron was born 14th of March 1782

Joseph was born 26th of December 1783

Priscilla was born 22d of October 1785

Moses was born 30th of December 1787

Simeon was born 16th of March 1790

Caleb was born 10th of February 1792

Amos was born 23rd of April 1794

Gideon was born 14th of February 1796

James Liteford was born 25th of February 1798

Deaths

Joseph died 12th of August 1800

Elizabeth Elsworth died 18th August 1800

Simeon died in the year 1800 day unknown

Moses died in the year 1802

As Wesley L. Cheuvront wrote, all of the above was written in Joseph Cheuvront's hand, and below in another appears:

James L. Died in the year 1840

Gideon died Nov. 14th 1842

Priscilla died Dec. the 8th 1850

Aaron died [no date given in Bible]

<http://internettrash.com/users/cheuvront/fwd.html>

The privately published book A Brief History of the Cheuvront Family In America by John Howard Cheuvront and W.L. Cheuvront is only meant to be a stepping stone for information on the Cheuvront & Cookman families. The information found on this site is a continuation of the wonderful start John Howard and W.L. made, since the interviews with family members they have so graciously shared with us have in themselves been an inspiration. The additional information which we add to their text has been gathered from many sources, both published (that seems to confirm as often as it brings up more questions) and unpublished. Much of the most useful information (and the most heart-warming) has been graciously provided by other researchers. Words cannot express our thanks at their generosity.

-D. (Cheuvront) Sipe

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Cheuvront Family Graveyard (Defunct)

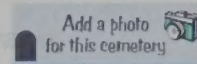
Info

Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia USA

Cemetery notes and/or description:
 CHEUVRONT FAMILY GRAVEYARD

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The family burial ground on the old Cheuvront farm was located near where Joseph Cheuvront built his frame house, in the now Good Hope community of Harrison County, West Virginia, not far from the New Bethel Church. The first family member interred there was that of young Joseph Cheuvront, Jr., who died of typhoid fever August 12, 1800. The second burial was his mother, Elizabeth Ellsworth Cheuvront, who died of typhoid fever 6 days later. The last family member buried there was that of Sarah Bollen Cheuvront in 1864, second wife of Reverend Cheuvront.

A total of 13 family members were buried on the farm. Their gravestones have long disappeared. A few years ago, an attempt was made to move their remains, but nothing could be found, except for a lonely button. It appears that through the years this hallowed ground has been destroyed. Needless to say, no remains have been removed to another location.

To honor the memory of the Reverend Joseph Cheuvront, the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a military stone in the Good Hope Masonic Cemetery. This stone would actually be a cenotaph, as his remains are not there.

Sadly, all the grave markers of these 13 dear family members are gone and what a shame. May we never forget them and certainly not "The Father and the Mothers of the American Cheuvronts." Our love and respect.

(Louise Taraba 12 May 2014)

Burial list:

Armanda Cheuvront
 Benjamin Cheuvront
 Cassandra Cheuvront
 Daniel Hitt Cheuvront
 Elizabeth Ellsworth Cheuvront
 Jane Courtney Cheuvront
 Joseph Cheuvront, Jr.
 Rev. Joseph Louis Cheuvront, Sr.
 Moses Cheuvront
 Sarah Bollen Cheuvront
 Simeon Cheuvront
 Unknown Powers
 Mrs. Thornhill

ALL GRAVESTONES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

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[Cheuvront, Amanda](#) 127868176
 b. May 31, 1834 d. Sep. 28, 1836

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
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 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Benjamin T. or F.](#) 127871063
 b. Jul. 16, 1841 d. Feb. 7, 1842

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Cassandra](#) 127867681
 b. Dec. 20, 1812 d. 1839

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Daniel Hitt](#) 127868049
 b. Jan. 20, 1821 d. unknown

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Elizabeth Ellsworth](#) 107569878
 b. Mar. 20, 1759 d. Aug. 18, 1800

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Jane Courtney](#) 127870708
 b. Apr. 30, 1808 d. Nov. 8, 1841

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Joseph, Jr](#) 127190721
 b. Dec. 26, 1783 d. Aug. 12, 1800

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Rev Joseph Louis, Sr](#) 127859078
 b. Feb. 1, 1757 d. Aug. 12, 1832

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Moses](#) 127867508
 b. Dec. 30, 1787 d. 1802

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
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 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Sarah Bollen](#) 127864135
 b. Jun. 22, 1780 d. 1864

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 West Virginia, USA

[Cheuvront, Simeon](#) 127865036
 b. Mar. 10, 1790 d. 1800

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
 Goodhope
 Harrison County
 West Virginia, USA

[Powers, Unknown](#) 127871255
 b. unknown d. unknown

[Cheuvront Family Graveyar...](#)
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[Thornhill, Mrs](#) 127871721
 b. unknown d. unknown

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Continental Lines, Rev. War, Feb. 2, 1757.
Aug. 12 1832. (It)

Note: GRAVESTONE IN THE FAMILY BURIAL
GROUND HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

Burial:
Cheuvront Family Graveyard (Defunct)
Goodhope
Harrison County
West Virginia, USA

Created by: Louise Taraba
Record added: Apr 12, 2014
Find A Grave Memorial# 127859078

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found for Joseph Cheuvront



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9 Birth Certificates
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13 Divorce Certificates
found for Joseph Cheuvront

63 Vital Records for Joseph Cheuvront

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Fork near present day Good Hope and was for a church building and cemetery. The church was built in 1802 and was known as the "Ellsworth Meeting House" and was that name for years after the Ellsworths moved to Ohio. Joseph preached here prior to the church being built and following. Later the church, which no longer stands by the cemetery, was called Bethel Church.

Joseph Cheuvront wrote many deeds in the exchange of property. He was an unusually good penman for any time. He was regarded as a very eloquent preacher by those of his community and others. Even the Rev. Henry Smith of the Baltimore Conference who visited the Clarksburg Circuit in 1794 stated: "...Brother Cheuvront in the moccasins could have preached all around me..." Joseph was elected "Overseer" of the Poor Upper District in Harrison County. His bravery during Indian raids could match no other. With seemingly little fear, he assisted families to safety when threats of danger were present. His own family managed to escape any tragedies. He taught the first school-a subscription school-in the now Good Hope community.

According to J. Howard Cheuvront: "He (Joseph) was a man of medium statue, with very black eyes and hair, in his younger days, but becoming gray and bald in later life. He was always a student..."

Our love and respect for the Reverend Joseph Louis Cheuvront.
(It)

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REFER TO NOTES ON THE CEMETERY PAGE
(It)

Family links:

Spouses:

Elizabeth *Ellsworth* Cheuvront (1759 - 1800)*
Sarah *Bollen* Cheuvront (1780 - 1864)*

Children:

Catherine *Cheuvront* Stanley (1779 - ____)*
Aaron Charles Cheuvront (1780 - 1863)*
Joseph Cheuvront (1783 - 1800)*
Priscilla *Cheuvront* Powers (1785 - 1850)*
Moses Cheuvront (1787 - 1802)*
Simeon Cheuvront (1790 - 1800)*
Caleb Cheuvront (1792 - 1865)*
Amos Cheuvront (1794 - 1873)*
Gideon Cheuvront (1796 - 1842)*
James Liteford Cheuvront (1798 - 1840)*
Cassandra Cheuvront (1812 - 1839)*
Daniel Hitt Cheuvront (1821 - ____)*

*[Calculated relationship](#)

Inscription:

A military stone was placed by the DAR in the Good Hope Masonic Cemetery, Good Hope, Harrison County, WV. It would be a cenotaph as his remains have never been moved from the family cemetery. Transcription of the military stone: Joseph Cheuvront, Pvt.,

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[Illinois Public Land Purchase Records](#)

[Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records, 1720-1865](#)

[Immigration of Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania](#)

[Important Men of 1913](#)

[Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties \(Vol. 2\)](#)

[Intelligencer-Journal \(Lancaster, Pennsylvania\), Obituaries, 1990-1999](#) New! Posted on 10/29/99

[Iowa Union Soldier Burial Records](#)

[Ireland Gazetteer and Surname Guide](#)

[Irish Flax Growers List, 1796](#)

[Irish Records Index, 1500-1920](#) New! Posted on 10/21/99

[Irish Vital Records](#)

[Iron County, Utah Census, 1910](#)

[Italians in Poland](#)

[Italy Telephone and Address Listings](#) New!  Posted on 10/6/99

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[Jefferson County, Mississippi Wills, 1800-1833](#)

[Johnson Cemetery, Camden, New Jersey](#)

[Johnson County, Kansas, 1921 Farmer Directory](#)

[Juliana's Links](#)  Posted on 2/23/98

[Junction City, Kansas, High School Records](#)

[Kankakee City, Illinois Directory, 1876](#)  Posted on 9/8/99

[Kansas Adjutant Roll, Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865](#)

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Priscilla, Moses, Simeon, Caleb, Amos, Gideon, and James Liteford. Elizabeth passed away 18 August 1800 of typhoid fever, just six days following the death of their son, Joseph Jr.

After the death of Elizabeth, Joseph was assigned the Muskingum and Hockhoekin Circuit in Ohio, with some 30 preaching places. According to Rev. J.A. Earl, he organized the first Methodist Church in Randolph County, Ohio. While working this circuit, Joseph met and married his second wife Sarah Bollen on 26 January 1802 at Painesville, Ohio. Sarah was born in Pennsylvania and was 26 years his junior. They were parents of four children: Thomas, Enoch, Cassandra and Daniel Hitt.

Joseph stated he was converted to God the year following his arrival in 1774. About 1778 when the Methodist missionaries came to the Germany Valley area, he united with the "despised Methodist" and served the Church for 53 years. He started as a class leader, then exhorter, local preacher, traveling preacher (circuit rider), deacon, elder, and recording steward. By about 1780 he was licensed a local preacher.

During the Revolutionary War it is found that Joseph served the Fort Hinkle Militia in 1775 under Capt. John Skidmore. Although not sourced, it has been stated: "Joseph Cheuvront was called out with the VA Militia in April, 1780 when requisition was made on the state of Virginia for 300 men in the American Army of the Revolution. He served until, and was present at, the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, VA, on Oct. 1781." In an excerpt from a letter written by Rev. Isaac Robbins to Bishop Asbury, 1813, concerning the death of the Reverend Lasley Matthews (brother-in-law of Joseph), Matthews dated his turning to God in the fall that Cornwallis was taken, "through the instrumentality of Brother Joseph Cheuvront, who used to carry a Bible in his pocket and read to him and converse with him pertaining to the kingdom God."

Joseph was ordained into the Methodist ministry at the Conference meeting in Uniontown, PA on July 29, 1790 after serving about 10 years as a licensed local preacher. He gave bond to perform marriages on Sept. 20, 1790 in Harrison Co., VA (WV). His first marriage was that of David Bennett and Christina Bumgardner, April 5, 1791. Then on April 11 of that year he officiated at the marriage of Edmund West (Jr.) and Catherine Ellsworth, his wife's niece, daughter of Jacob Ellsworth.

As a minister of the Methodist church, Joseph's work extended to different circuits of counties around Harrison Co., VA and Ohio, but his initial ministry was confined to the backwoods settlements on the West Fork River. Here the first Methodist church services were held in homes since about 1786, under the leadership of Moses Ellsworth. Joseph Cheuvront was instrumental in preparing the deed for the land donated February 14, 1802 to the Methodist Episcopal Church by John and Mary (Richards) Ellsworth. This land was located on the West

Historical Register and Dictionary of the US Army 1789-1903, Vol. 2

History of Cambridge, Massachusetts (Supplement) ~~Free~~ Posted on 7/17/97

History of Columbus, Franklin County, OH, Vol. 1

History of Columbus, Franklin County, OH, Vol. 2

History of Cook County, Illinois

History of Hamilton County, Ohio

History of Military Company of Massachusetts (vol. 4)

History of Northwestern Arkansas

History of the American Nation

History of the American People

History of the LDS Church

History of the Old and New Monongahela

History of the Settlement of Upper Canada

History of the United States

History of Utah

History of VA Navy in the Revolution

Hope, Ontario, Census Index, 1881

Hope, Ontario, Census Index, 1901

Hopewell Friends History 1734-1934; Frederick County, VA

Hopewell Memberships 1759-1776

Houston, Muscogee, Talbot Counties, Georgia, Marriages, 1826-1852

Howell County, Missouri, 1880 Census

Huguenot Pedigrees, Vol. 1

Huguenot Pedigrees, Vol. 2

Idaho County Free Press, Newspaper Vital Records, 1886-1903

Idaho County, Idaho Newspaper Tax Lists, 1886-1893

Idaho Statesman (Boise), Obituaries, 1998-1999 New! Posted on 11/12/99

Ilion, New York Baptists, 1895, 1923 New! Posted on 10/26/99

Illinois Census Returns 1820

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Rev Joseph Louis Chevront, Sr

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Birth: Feb. 1, 1757
 Alsace, France
 Death: Aug. 12, 1832
 Virginia, USA

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The notable Joseph Louis Chevront was born 1 February 1757 (christened on the 2nd) at Strasbourg, Alsace, France, son of Francis Chevront and Nicole Febrve Chevront. He died about 12 August 1832 in Harrison County, Virginia (WV), and was buried on the old Chevront farm beside his first wife, located in the Good Hope community. Joseph was reared and received his education in the city of Nantes, France.

According to family tradition, he was educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood, but he denounced this faith and was disowned and disinherited by his family. At the age of about 15 he left home and went to England. In London, he studied English while employed as Gilder (goldsmith). While he was fluent in six different languages, including Greek and Hebrew, he was not familiar with English.

He arrived in America in early 1774. A photocopy of an unknown source, says he left London on the ship Virginia in December 1773 for America and lists him as Cheauvront, Jos, age 20, Gilder from London. His birth date and date he left London does not correspond with age given. An unknown source has the ship arriving at New York City. Not sure when or how this got started, but why would a ship belonging to Virginia bring young men to America as indentured servants to Virginia farmers dock in New York City? In Joseph's own words to his children to be passed down through the generations: "In the year 1771 being in the fifteenth year of my age, I went to England where I remained until 1773 when I embarked for America and landed at Fredericksburg in Virginia AD 1774, and was converted to God in the following year."

Upon arriving in America, Joseph was bound to Moses Ellsworth/Ellsworth, Sr., who paid his fair. The Ellsworth family lived in Augusta County, Virginia (area now Germany Valley in Pendleton Co., WV, near Riverton), where Moses owned his farm. Joseph became a part of the Ellsworth family and it was here he learned how to farm, as he put in his time for Mr. Ellsworth. Family tradition has it that Joseph also tutored the Ellsworth children.

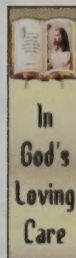
In February 1777, Augusta Co., Virginia (now Pendleton Co., WV), Joseph married Elizabeth Ellsworth, daughter of Moses Ellsworth, Sr. and Anna Maria Elizabeth Henckel Ellsworth. To this union they were blessed with eleven children: Mary Elizabeth, Catherine, Aaron, Joseph Jr.,



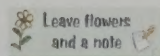
- Char
 Added: May. 26, 2014



In Loving Memory of a Man of God.
 Husband of my 6th Great Aunt,
 Elizabeth Ellsworth. Rest in Peace.
 - [Louise Taraba](#)
 Added: May. 13, 2014



In Loving Memory, Your GGGGG
 grandson, Michael Wayne Barrett
 - [Michael W Barrett](#)
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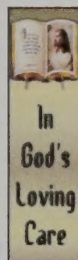
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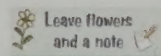
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THE ADDAMS FAMILY IN AMERICA

By Addams Family Historian

Immediately in front of, and just across the walk from, the marker showing the site of the original St. James P. F. Church of Perkiomen, Evansburg, Montgomery County, Pa., stands a small gravestone inscribed "ABRAHAM ADDAMS, died April 5, 1738, aged 31 years." On p. 125 of Bean's "History of Montgomery County, Penn." it is stated that "Abraham Addams, was drowned in the perkiomen Creek by falling out of his canoe, April 5, 1738," while the PX records of Philadelphia County (which then included what is now Montgomery County) show that he left three daughters, Rachel, Ann and Abigail, but no son to perpetuate the family name. The Philadelphia County records show that he was a son of: Richard Addams and that he had two brothers, Isaac and William, who outlived their father who died in 1747/8. Of these Isaac Addams moved to Chester County, and William Addams to Lancaster County before the death of their father, and none of their male descendants were buried at St. James. As a result of the facts here outlined the Abraham Addams stone is the only one in the cemetery at St. James marking the grave of a person named Addams, although many persons closely kin to him through blood relationship and intermarriage lie buried there.

For many years the present writer has known of the relationship existing between William Addams who died in Lancaster County, Pa., and Abraham and Richard Addams of Philadelphia County, but not until he had located the grave of Abraham Addams at St. James was he able to identify the family of "Ann Lane of Philadelphia" as the wife of this William Addams had previously been entered upon the Addams family records. Documentary evidence subsequently located shows that five of the nine brothers and sisters of Abraham Addams married into families definitely identified with St. James Church, as follows:

William Addams and Ann Lane

Elizabeth Addams and Thomas Bull

Margaret Addams and Paul Casselberry

Susanna Addams and Conrad Kustard (Custer)

Catherine Addams and John Morris.

To these should, probably, be added two others making at least seven of the possible nine, as follows:

Mary Addams and Israel Morris

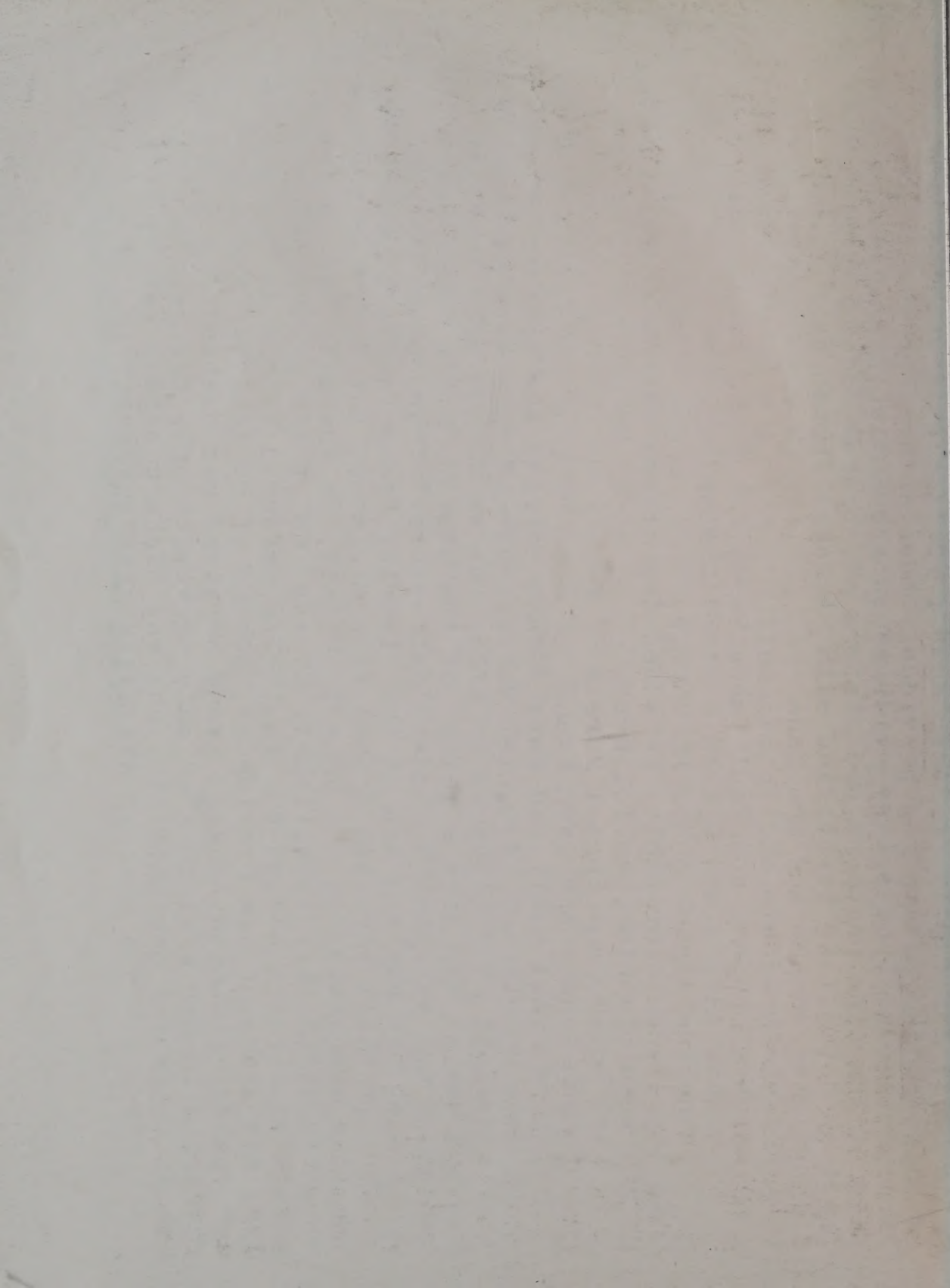
Hannah Addams and Owen Evans

Of the two last mentioned Mary Addams married the brother of the above John Morris and of Daniel Morris, both of whom were "members of the congregation" of St. James in 1738, but we do not know that her husband was at any time a member of the Church or its "congregation." Hannah Addams was Abraham Addams' half-sister. There seems no reason to doubt that her husband was of the Limerick Evans family many of the members of which were associated with St. James, but that her husband was thus associated is not known; in fact, his identity has as yet not been definitely established. He was one of the executors of the estate of Richard Addams who in 1747/8 referred to him as "my son-in-law, Owen Evans, of New Providence, husband of my daughter Hannah." The mother of Hannah (Addams) Evans survived her husband for about 20 years, and in her will in 1769 made provision only for her daughter Hannah Evans and her children; she was Richard Addams second wife, and doubtless not the mother of ~~any of his other nine children.~~ any of his other nine children.

The op den Graeff Ancestry and Germantown Property

From the late Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker, for many years the President of the St. James Association, and himself a descendant of Abraham op den Graeff, the present writer first learned that the above Richard Addams had married a daughter of this Abraham op den Graeff. Through Mr. John J. Macfarlane, whose wife is an officer of the St. James Association, and a descendant of Richard Addams and Abraham op den Graeff, the present writer has been able not only to verify the verbal statements made to him by Gov. Pennypacker, but to obtain an actual map of the property presented by Abraham op den Graeff to his son-in-law Richard Addams and Gertien his wife in 1698. This land was a 91-acre strip along the side of what is now Crefeld Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Germantown, Penn. The deed of transfer of this property by Abraham op den Graeff (for whom, no doubt, his grandson Abraham Addams was named) represents the ~~XXXX~~ earliest official document relating to the Addams Family in America; and hence it is herein given more attention than otherwise would seem justified. Reference to the property is found in two different records, both of which may be considered official. One of these is the "Grün und Lager Buch, Germantown," begun by Francis Daniel Pastorius and written by him in German. A translation of these records, made by Prof. Marion Dexter Learned, is on file ~~XXX~~ with the Deed Books at Philadelphia, whereas the original copy, with the translation, is kept ~~XX~~ by the Pennsylvania Historical Society. On p. 324 of the translation appears the record of the gift made by Abraham op den Graeff to Richard and Gertien (op den Graeff) Addams and the sale made by them ~~XXX~~ to Thomas Williams and the sale by Williams to Thomas Tresse. In Deed Book (Philadelphia Co.) H-5, p. 606, is recorded a deed from Peter Knouse to Michael Shitz reciting the same facts as to the gift made by Abraham op den Graeff and the sale of 10 acres of the original 91 ~~XXX~~ by Richard Addams and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Gertien his wife on Oct. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 30, 1700 to Gerhard Rittenhouse, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (who subsequently sold it to Thomas Tress who sold it to Peter Knous who thereby became possessed of the original 91 acres). From the point of view of family records, it seems unnecessary to present both of these documents, and hence only that of Pastorius is here recited. It reads as follows:--as translated.

"This Indenture made the 16th. day of November in the Second Year of our Sovereign Lady Queen Anne of England, etc., Anno Domi. 1703, between Thomas Williams of Creveld in the Germantownship and County of Philadelphia, husbandman, with the consent and approbation of Mary his wife, on the one part, and Thomas Tresse of Philadelphia, and County aforesaid, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Ironwanger, on the other part: Witnesseth, that the said Thomas Williams, with the consent aforesaid for and in consideration of 38 pounds and 12 shillings current silver money of Pennsylvania to him in hand paid by the said Thomas Tresse, the receipt of which he the said Thomas Williams doth hereby acknowledge and thereof for him, his heirs, executors and administrators fully acquit and discharge the said Thomas Tresse, his heirs, Executors, administrators and assigns forever, hath given, granted, aliened, bargained, sold, conveyed, and by these presents, with consent aforesaid, absolutely confirmed to the said Thomas Tresse, a certain tract of land situate and lying at Creveld, in the Township and County aforesaid, between the land of Claus Jansen and Jacob Isaac Van Dobber, bordering upon the line of Summerhausen, in the said Township, and upon the line of Springfield Manor in the said County, containing



The op den Graeff Ancestry, etc., Cont.

in the whole eighty-one acres, whereof fifty ~~XXX~~ acres were formerly granted by the Frankfort Company unto John Luken, being the part of 200 acres mentioned in Deed of Enfeoffment, bearing date the 8th. day of June 1683, recorded in the Rolls Office, Philadelphia Book E, Vol. 5, p. 80, and afterwards sold to Abraham op den Graeff, by a deed of Sale, dated the 7th. day of the 6th. Mo. 1698, acknowledged in Open Court of Record, held at Germantown, the 11th. day of the 9th. Mo. 1701.

"The other 31 acres are part of land sold by Jacob Tellner to the sd. Abraham op den Graeff, by a Deed of Sale recorded in the said Rolls Office, Book C-2, Vol. 3, pp. 95, 96, 97, and further confirmed by a deed of release under the said Jacob Tellner's hand and seal dated the 4th. day of the 2nd. month, 1689, recorded Ibidem, Book C-2, Vol. 3, pp. 124, 125, which two parcels of land by Deed of Gift from the said Abraham op den Graeff, dated the 10th. day of October 1689, acknowledged in Open Court of Record held at Germantown, aforesaid, the 11th. day of November, 1701, were conveyed unto Richard Adams and Gertien, his wife, the daughter of the aforesaid Abraham op den Graeff, but now in the tenure and possession of the above-named Thomas Williams by virtue of a Deed of Sale from the said Richard Adams and Gertien his wife, bearing date the 10th. day of October, 1701, acknowledged in Open Court, held at Germantown, aforesaid, the 11th. day of November, in the same year, with all the estate, right, title, interest, property claim or demand whatsoever of him the said Thomas Williams and his wife of, in and to the said 81, acres of land, etc.-----*****

"Acknowledged in Open Court of Record, held at Germantown, the 8th. day of the 12th. month called February, 1703/4, Certified by me (Signed) Fr. Daniel Pastorius, Cler. Cur. Germ."

According to "The Autobiography of a Pennsylvanian" by the above-mentioned Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker (whose grand-father Joseph Whitaker, Jr., was a descendant of the op den Graeff family) the above Abraham op den Graeff came to Germantown in 1683, signed the protest against slavery in 1688, and was immortalized by Whittier in his poem "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim." "He was Burgess of Germantown and a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly. His grandfather, Herman op den Graeff, was a delegate to the Mennonite Convention which met in Dordrecht in 1632 and there signed the Confession of Faith which has often been printed both in Europe and America. Abraham later moved to the Skippack." From ~~XXXXX~~ a very elaborate chart accompany and illustrating "The Pedigree of Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker" privately printed by him in 1892, it is learned that the grand-father of Abraham op den Graeff, namely Herman op den Graeff, of Alderkerk married (on ~~XXXXXX~~ Aug. 16, 1605) Grietje Plotjes (b. Nov. 26, 1588; d. Jan. 7, 1643) a daughter of Driessen Plotjes of Kempen (who died May 22, 1608, and whose mother died Aug. 29, ~~XXXX~~ 1579) by his wife Alet (~~XX~~ whom he had married Dec. 13, 1584, and who died Mar. 16, 1615) a daughter of Syllis Gobeles. ~~XXXX~~ On p. 149 of Pennypacker's "Germantown" is an article relating to the op den Graeff family, and in the "Penn Monthly" for Sept. 1875, there is an article by S. W. Pennypacker on "Abraham and Dirck op den Graeff." From these it is learned that Herman op den Graeff was the father of 18 children of whom Isaac, ~~XXX~~ born Feb. 28, 1616 and died Jan. 17, 1679, was the father of Dirck, Hermann and Abraham, who on June 11, 1683, bought jointly from Jacob Tellner 2000 acres of land to be laid out in Pennsylvania, a part of which was around Germantown, and the remainder along the Perkiomen. On Oct. 13, 1683, these three

The op den Graeff Ancestry, etc.,

brothers with their sister Margaretha arrived in Philadelphia, to gather with Lenert Arets, Tunes (Thomas) Kunders, Reinert Tisen (Tyson) Wilhelm Streypers (Streepers) Jan Lensen, Peter Keurlic, Jan Simens (Siemens) Johannes Bleickers, Abraham Tunes and Jan Lucken, their wives, children and servants, in all 13 families. Herman op den Graeff was a son-in-law of Jacob Isaacs Van Bibber, a preacher who, with Gwert Remke and Lenert Arets, purchased 1000 acres from William Penn on June 11, 1683 (the date of the op den Graeff purchase) and with Telner, Streypers, and Sipman, constituted the original Crefeld purchasers. The op den Graeff brothers were cousins of Jan and Wilhelm Streypers, who were also brothers. The wives of Thomas Kunders and Lenert Arets were sisters of the Streypers, and the wife of Jan (?) was the sister of Reynier Tisen. On 6th day 10th Mo., 1685, the three brothers Herman Isaacs op den Graeff, Dirck Isaacs op den Graeff and Abraham Isaacs op den Graeff, with the consent of their respective wives, released 25 acres of land, being a half-lot in Germantown, to Peter Schmucker, adjoining Hanns Peter Umstet and Abraham Isaacs op den Graeff, as shown by F.D. Pastorius' "Grun und Lager Buch" - p. 235 of the translation. No wife joined with Abraham Isaacs op den Graeff in a deed of release signed by him on 22nd., 3 mo. 1687, and seemingly his wife had died between 6th. 10 mo. 1685 and the last-mentioned date. On Nov. 10, 1688, Herman op den Graeff, Abraham op den ~~XXXXXX~~ Graeff, and Francis Daniel Pastorius witnessed the will of Dirck Isaac op den Graeff, inhabitant of Germantown, who gave half of his property to his "next of kin" and permitted his wife Nilken, to will the other half in case she ~~XXXX~~ re-
d. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ He died before May 24, 1697, on which date letters of administration were issued to Nilken op den Graeff the widow. Letters of administration on the estate of Nilken Opdegraff were issued in 1719, and seemingly his widow did not remarry and he left no issue by her. Herman Isaacs op den Graeff (the oldest ~~XX~~ brother who seems always to have included the name of his father with his own surname, according to the Dutch custom) removed ~~XX~~ about Sept. 29, 1701, to Kent County in the "Territories" now the state of Delaware, and died before May 2, 1704. His daughter Margaret, who died in 7 mo. 1748 in Germantown, married on 2 mo. 6, 1697, at the Abington Monthly Meeting, of the Society of Friends (Quakers) Peter Shoemaker, Jr. son of Peter Shoemaker, Sr. who came to America from the Palatinate with his family in 1685, and doubtless was that Peter Schmucker to whom the three op den Graeff brothers sold a half-lot in Germantown in 1685. Her descendants have been traced to the present generation. The evidence at hand indicates that Herman Isaacs op den Graeff had no son who reached maturity, and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ possibly Margaret Shoemaker was his only child. On 4th day 1 mo. 1689, Abraham op de Graef deeded part of the 2000 acres belonging to the three brothers, namely, 125 acres consisting of 50 acres in Germantown, 50 acres in Kresheim and 25 acres in Clevelt to Jacob Shoemaker who conveyed 50 acres thereof on Oct. 4, 1693 to Heifert Papen of Germantown, husbandman, who on 29th. 3 mo. 1704 conveyed it to Samuel Richardson, Thomas Potts, Richard Townsend and Samuel Cart, all of Philadelphia. On 15th. 6 mo. 1707, Cornelius Siverts, of Germantown, glazier, filed a request for a patent for 390 3/4 acres being the one-third share in the land of the three op den Graeff Brothers around Germantown which he had purchased from Herman op de Graef on 8 ber. 4, 1701. This record is to be found on pp. 488/9, of Vol. XIX, Penn. Archives, 2nd. Series, where it is stated that Dirck op

op den Graeff, by his last will duly proved, bequeathed to his executrix, Miliken op den Graeff, his whole estate, who by virtue thereof has sold one moiety of his share in the said township (which share was also 390 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres) to Abraham op den Graeff, her brother (brother-in-law) and the other moiety, being ~~XXX~~ 195 $\frac{1}{3}$ to the other brother Herman, by deed 7 ber. 29, 1701. Thus Abraham op den Graeff came into possession of one-half of the unsold portion of the Germantown portion of the op den Graeff property, 828 acres of the original 2000-acre purchase being located along the Perkiomen. In 1685 Abraham op den Graeff had a "hausfrau" (wife) Athavina (S.W.P. Sketch of Abraham and Dirck op den Graeff, and Pastorius' "Grun und Lager Buch" p. 255) and she may have been the mother of Gertien op den Graeff who married Richard Addams before Oct. 10, 1698. On May 16, 1704, Abraham op den Graeff and Trintje, his wife, sold their brick house and parcel of land in Germantown to Herman Dors, as shown by a mortgage acknowledged in Open Court of Record held at German town, Oct. 5, 1704, and certified by Mr. Daniel Pastorius, and recorded in the "Grun und Lager Buch" p. 198. At that time Abraham op den Graeff was described as a "linen-weaver" of Germantown, but thereafter he was described as a "weaver" of Parkahomy, Philadelphia, he having taken up his residence in the Dutch Township along the Perkiomen where 828 acres of the 2000-acre purchase of the three op den Graeff brothers was located. His wife had evidently died before April 7, 1710, on which date he issued a "quit claim" to 118 acres he had sold to William Streppers of the Germantownship, "leather draper," as shown by an item on p. 302 of Philadelphia County Deed Book G-10. On April 9, 1710 he sold to Gerret Peters, of North Wales, Philadelphia County, yeoman, a tract of 317 acres in the Dutch Township, being part of the original purchase from Jacob ~~XXXX~~ Tellner, June 11, 1683. This deed (in which reference is made to deed book S2-3, pp. 95, 96, 124, 125, was signed by Abraham op den Graeff, weaver, of Parkahomy (without wife) and recorded in Book H-18, p. 105. Abraham op den Graeff died before March 21, 1731, still in possession of 530 acres of the original purchase as shown by a "Quadriparte Indenture" of that date between Jacob op den Graeff, of Philadelphia County, husbandman, Thomas ~~XXXX~~ How of the County aforesaid, and Margaret his wife, of the second part; Herman In de Hoffen, of the said County, husbandman, and Ann his wife, of the Third part; and Isaac op den Graeff of the County aforesaid, weaver, of the fourth part, in which it is recited that on June 10/11, 1683, William Penn conveyed ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 5000 acres to Jacob Telner, who by deed (Book. 2-3, pp. 95/96) dated June 10/11, 1683, conveyed 2000 acres thereof to Herman Isaac op den Graeff, Dirck Isaac op den Graeff, and Abraham Isaac op den Graeff (Quit-claim Book. 2-3, pp. 124/5). The said Herman, Dirck and Abraham conveyed parts thereof to certain persons, and the said Herman and Dirck died, after which ~~XX~~ the said Abraham Isaac op den Graeff became lawfully seized of and in 530 acres situated in the County of Philadelphia, part of the said 2000 acres, and being so seized the said Abraham died, after whose decease the 530 acres of land ~~XX~~ descended to his children, the above said Isaac op den Graeff, Jacob op den Graeff, Margaret, wife of Thomas How, and Ann wife of Herman In de Haven, who agree to a division of the land a certain 132 $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre plot being assigned to Isaac op den Graeff. This deed was recorded on Oct. 30, ~~XXXX~~ 1736 on which date was recorded also a deed showing that the said Isaac and his wife Mary op den Graeff sold the whole plot on Mar. 27, 1731 to Johannes Herpel. -- Deed Book I-2, pp. 88/92.

Richard Addams and his descendants

1-GERTIEN OP DEN GRAEFF, born certainly before her ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ father came to America in 1683, probably in Arefeld, Germany, four miles from the Rhine, near the border of Holland. Before Oct. 10, 1698 she married Richard Addams, as shown by a deed of gift to them from ~~KNXX~~ her father, Abraham op den Graeff of "ninety-one acres of land situate in Crefield in the Germantownship (Philadelphia Co. Pa.) between the lots of Claus Johnson and Jacob Isaacs Van Bebborn, bordering on the line of Sommerhausen and the line of Springfield Manor." As shown on p. 606, Deed Book, H-5, ~~XXXX~~ 81 acres of this plot ~~XX~~ was sold by Richard Adams and Gertien his wife on Oct. 10, 1701 ~~XXXXXX~~ to Thomas Williams, 10 acres having been sold by them on Oct. 13, 1700 to Gerhard Rittenhouse. Shortly thereafter, on May 16, 1704, her father sold his brick-house in Germantown and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ all subsequent records (the earliest thus far located being dated April 10, 1710) show him to be a resident of the Perkiomen Region. At some time between 1701 and 1722 Richard Addams took up his residence in the Perkiomen Region, as shown by a deed from "William Lane of Parquesaming in the County of Philadelphia, and Province of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, to Richard Adams of Parquesaming, aforesaid, Yeoman, dated Feb. 9, 1722 conveying to him a part of the Lane tract of 2,500 acres, namely a ~~XX~~ 280-acre plot along the Skippack Creek, by the lands of William Lane, Peter Rambo, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ and John Umstad. This ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ deed was recorded April 6, 1749 (after the death of both William Lane and Richard Addams) in Book G-11, p. 206. In March 1725 diverse inhabitants along the Perquomine Creek petitioned the Court to establish a township of the territory upon which they resided, this petition being signed by William Lane, Samuel Lane, James Lane, Peter Rambo, John Morris, James Shattick, Richard ~~XXM~~ Jones, Thomas Diemer, (Paul ?) Casselberry, Thomas Loch, John Bull, Richard Adams, Thomas Potts, Daniel Phillips and Lewis Rees. Richard Addams or his descendants were closely identified by marriage or business relations with practically every signer, or descendants of every signer, of that petition. On "May ye 10th. 1728, sundry inhabitants of the Perkiomen Region presented a petition to "Patrick Gordon, Esqr., Gouverneur Genarall," asking for protection of their "poor wives and children" from the Indians who "have fell upon ye Back Inhabitants about Falkner's Swamp" (west of the Perkiomen.) John Pawling, Henry Pannebekers, John Roberts, William Lane, John Jacobs, Isaac Dubois, Israel Morris, Jacob op den graef, Richard Adams, Gerhard Dehaffen, Conrad Custer, William Smith, Peter Rambo, Claus Johnson and Edward Indehaven were among the signers definitely identified by association with the Addams family. Among the land holders in Providence Township, Philadelphia Co. Pa., in 1734 were the following persons who (or whose descendants) have been found to be identified by marriage or business dealings with Richard Addams or his descendants: Aubrey Richardson, Edward Richardson, Joseph Richardson, James Hamer, Adam Hamer, Samuel Lane, William Lane's estate, Henry Pawling, Evan Pugh, Catherine Castlebury, Daniel Rees, Lewis Morgan, Paul Castlebury, John Morris, John Bull, George Phillips, Richard Adams (148 a) Isaac Adams (8 a) Abraham Adams (30 a) William Adams (200 a) David Phillips, Thomas How, Peter Rambo, Mathias Coplin, Jacob Shraack Herman Indehaven, Richard Jones, Anthony Vanderglice, Jacob Miller, Bastian Miller, Roger North and Thomas Rossiter. In the adjacent township of "Perkiomen and Skippack" were the following persons, similarly identified: John.

Richard Addams and his Descendants

Herman and Henry Umsted, Jacob Uptegraeff, Mathias Tyson, Henry and Peter Pennybaker, Henry Pawling, Jr., John Newberry, Hermannus Kuster, Claus Johnson, Richard Jacobs, and Garret Indehaven. In another adjacent township were Joseph Barlo, Barnaby Coulston, Nicholas Custard, Owen Evans, William Evans, John Kendall, Peter Umsted and John Umsted. The will of Richard Addams in 1747/8 shows that the given name of his wife at that time was Alse (not Gertien) ~~WXX~~ and that she was the mother of his youngest daughter Hannah, at that time wife of Owen Evans. This daughter was born probably not later than 1730, and possibly several years earlier. The family name of Richard Addams' last wife, who survived him until 1769, is not known, but it is noteworthy that a certain Richard Adams married a certain Elsie (also entered Elizabeth) Withers at Christ Church, Philadelphia, on Dec. 22, 1726; the attempt to identify these people as other than ~~XXXX~~ Richard and Alse Addams of Providence Township, Philadelphia (now Montgomery County), has as yet not proved successful. The ~~XX~~ available documents indicate that Alse Addams was the mother of only one of Richard Addams' surviving children, and we have no records to indicate that he had more than two wives; it seems likely, therefore, that Gertien (op den Graeff) Addams was the mother of his nine children (who reached maturity) born before his daughter Hannah. Of these five had given names commonly employed in the op den Graeff family, namely, Abraham, Isaac, Catherine, Margaret and Ann. The gravestones of Abraham and William show that the former was born two years after the latter, that is in ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ 1707 as compared with 1705, so it is safe to assume that at least the three sons (and probably all the daughters except Hannah) were children of Gertien (op den Graeff) Addams.

~~XX~~

Richard Addams the Baptist

Richard Addams, his wife Alse, his son Isaac Addams and wife Edith, Sarah Adams (possibly a daughter of Isaac Addams) his daughter Margaret (Addams) Casselberry and her husband Paul Casselberry were members of the Great Valley Baptist Church, Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pa., 18 miles N.W. from Philadelphia. At what time the above persons became associated with the church is known only indirectly. The church was organized in 1711. Paul Casselberry became a member by baptism on Sept. 18, 1742, and died March 24, 1748; his wife Margaret (Addams) Casselberry, who became a member on the same date died in 1749. Richard Addams died in January or February, 1747/8. In 1770 Isaac Addams, Edith Addams, Alse Addams and Sarah Addams (Adams?) were listed as members who were transferred to Vincent Church which had been established as a branch of the Great Valley Church in 1737 or 1748 (the records not being clear on this point) with 25 members including Isaac Addams, Margaret Evans and Lettice Evans. (Margaret Evans may have been Hannah Addams Evans daughter who married John McCorkle?) Or these Lettice Evans has been identified as the widow of Maurice Evans; she died in 1786 aged 75 years. The attempt to locate the grave of Richard Addams in the yard of the Great Valley Church, the Vincent Church, the old Mennonite Church on the Skippack (with which his first wife's people were associated) or the cemeteries of the Lower Providence Baptist Church or the St. James P.E. Church of Parkton where his descendants were buried has as yet not proved successful.

Will of Richard Addams

In the name of God, Amen: I, Richard Adams, of Providence in the County of Philadelphia, yeoman, being very sick and weak in Body, but of a Sound Disposing mind and memory, Considering the uncertainty of this Transitory Life and the Certainty of Death, Do make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following (viz)

- 1 I give and Bequeath to my Eldest Daughter's children, Susannah Kistard, late wife of Conrad Kistard, deceased, the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful Money of Pennsylvania, to be Equally Divided Between them, Share and Share alike, to be paid within 12 months after my decease.
- 2 I give and bequeath unto my daughter Catherine, Widow of John Morris, the sum of Ten Pounds of like lawful money to be paid by my Executors within Twelve months after my decease.
- 3 I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary, Widow of Israel Morris, the sum of Ten Pounds of Like Money aforesaid to be paid within Twelve months after my decease.
- 4 I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Margaret, now Wife of Paul Casselbeary, the Sum of Ten Pounds Lawful money aforesaid to be paid within Twelve Months by my Executors.
- 5 I give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth, now Wife of Thos. Bull, the sum of Ten Pounds Lawfull money aforesaid to be paid within Twelve Months after my decease by my executors.
- 6 I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Ann the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful money aforesaid to be paid to her or her husband Jacob Umetatt by my Executors within Twelve Months after my decease.
- 7 I give and bequeath unto my Son Abram's Children the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful money aforesaid to be paid them or the survivor ~~XXX~~ of them, Equally Share and Share alike (viz) Ann and Abigail, to be paid within Twelve Months after my decease by my Executors.
- 8 Imprimis: I give and bequeath and Devise unto my two sons, viz., William and Isaac, the moiety, or half-part, of all the Remainder of my estate after the above Legacies, Debts and ffuneral Charges is paid, to be Equally Divided Between them share and share alike. That is to say, each one is to have a quarter part to hold to them, their Heirs and Assigns for ever.
- 9 Imprimis: I give, Bequeath and Devise unto my well beloved wife Aise and youngest Daughter Hannah the other Moiety, or half-part, of my estate after the aforesaid Debts and Legacies is paid and Discharged as aforesaid to be equally Divided between my said Wife and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Daughter's Hannah Husband Owen Evans to hold them their Heirs and Assigns for ever, each one quarterly part.
- 10 And Further: It is my will that if Either of my aforesaid two sons William and Isaac shall be able and have a mind to keep my Plantation and Lands Situated in the Township aforesaid, containing one hundred and fifty acres, I give, devise and bequeath the same to one of them to hold to them, their Heirs and assigns for Ever. Provided they pay the three parts in four of the value thereof to my other Son Daughter Hannah or her aforesaid Husband Owen Evans, to each of them a quarter part as aforesaid within two ~~XXX~~ years after my decease, otherwise I order and Impower my Executors, or the survivor of them, to sell and ~~Convey~~ my's Plantation and Lands to the Highest Bidder or for the Best price that can be got for the same, and the Money arising therefrom to be Divided in four Equal parts after my debts and seven first Legacies are paid and discharged aforesaid (viz) one Quarter part to my said Wife, and one to my Daughter Hannah or

her Husband Owen Evans, and one to my Son William and the other Quarter part to my son Isaac

Lastly, I do make and ordain my aforesaid two sons and my said son-in-law Owen Evans to be Executors of this my Last Will and Testament, Disallowing, Revoking and Disannulling all other former Wills, Legacies and Executors by me in any wise before this time named or bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Seal this First Day of February Anno Domini one Thousand seven hundred and forty seven (eight)

his

Witnesses

Richard Bull

James Betsen

Peter Tyson

Richard (X). Adams
mark

Salford, March 24, 1747, James Betsen and Peter Tyson declared they saw and heard Richard Adams declare the same to be his will.

Letters Testamentary were granted to William and Isaac Adams and Owen Evans, Executors, on March 24, 1747. Will Book, H, p. 528. On Dec. 6, 1748, Alice Adams, widow and relict XX of Richard Adams, late of the Township of New Providence, Philadelphia Co., decd.; William Adams of Bracken (Brecknock) Township, in the County of Lancaster, yeoman; Isaac Adams of Coventry Township, in the County of Chester, yeoman, and Owen Evans of New Providence, in the said County of Philadelphia, yeoman (Sons and Executors of the last will of the sd. Richard Adams, decd., sold to Harman Umstatt, of the Township of Perkyamie and Skepack, yeoman, ~~XXXXXX~~ 49 acres of the land of Richard Adams for 115 pounds. In the deed of transfer, which is recorded on p. 179 of Deed Book 18, reference is made to the purchase from William Lane on Feb. 9, 1722, and to the will of Richard Adams dated Feb. 5, 1747/8. The deed is recorded as though signed by William Adams, Isaac Adams, Owen Evans and Alice (X) Adams in the presence of Jacob Pennebecker and Jacob Shore, which witnesses appeared on May 18, 1750 before Owen Evans, Esq., one of the Justices of the Peace. To whom the remainder of Richard Addams' land was sold is not known. In her will dated Aug. 3, 1769, and proved Feb. 7, 1770 by the witnesses John Bull and John Umstat, Alice (X) Addams, widow of Richard Addams of Philadelphia County appointed her friend Jacob Umstat her executor and directed that her property be given to her daughter Hannah; her grandchildren Alice and Hannah Evans, and her granddaughter Margaret wife of John McCorkle. She also remembered her friends John and Ann Tyson. (Book O, p. 454) On Sept. 29, 1774, Jacob Umstat of Skip. & Perkiomen, executor of the will of Alice Adams, late of Providence, widow, decd., sold her landed property ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (consisting of 4 acres bounded by John Lloyds, by the Church land, by the Manhatawney Road and by Edward Lane) for 60 pounds to Christian Recup, of Upper Merion, Cordwainer, which property had been described by Alice Adams as "my house and lott of land thereunto belonging containing four acres which I purchased of Jacob ~~XXXXXX~~ Pennebaker." The record shows that on April 16, 1751 Jacob Pennebaker and Margaret his wife had sold to Alice Adams four acres of a 51-acre plot ~~XXXXXXXX~~ he had purchased from Edward Lane and Ann his wife on July 28, 1749 (Deed Book, 12, p. 57)

THE Immediate Descendants of Richard Addams.

- 41-SUSANNA ADDAMS(died 1740/47) wed Conrad Kistard=Custer(d. before 1748)
42-CATHARINE ADDAMS(d. after 1747) wed John Morris(d. before 1748)
43-MARY ADDAMS(died after 1747) wed Israel Morris(d. before 1748)
44-Margaret Addams(d. 1749) wed Paul Casselberry (d. 1748)
45-ANN ADDAMS(died after 1775)wed Jacob Umstead(d. after 1775)
46-ELIZABETH ADDAMS(d. abt. 1808)wed (A) Thomas Bull(d. 1747)
wed in 1751 Thomas Rossiter(d. before his wife)
47-WILLIAM ADDAMS(d. 1773)wed 1729 Ann Lane(d. after her husband)
48-ABRAHAM ADDAMS(d. 1738) wed (d. before her husband)
49-ISAAC ADDAMS(d. 1789/72)wed Edith (EX d. after 1770 ?)
4(10)-HANNAH ADDAMS(d. after 1789)wed before 1748 Owen Evans

41-SUSANNA ADDAMS(died 1740/7) ~~XXXX~~ was referred to by her father on Feb. 1st. 1747/8, as "my eldest daughter, Susannah Kistard, late wife of Conrad Kistard" to whose children he gave ten pounds. She was living on April 2, 1735, when Conrad Kester, yeoman, of Franconia, Philadelphia Co. Pa., and Susanna his wife sold to Conrad Kerr, for 135 pounds a tract of 106 acres near the branches of the Perkiomus lying in Salford, Philadelphia Co., which he had purchased from Jacob Taylor, Gent., of Philadelphia City, on May 18, 1720. (Phila. Deed Books, F3-p. 470, and F7-p. 277). That her husband was a son of Arnold Custer is indicated by a deed (in which she joined) dated 1740 (exact ~~XXXX~~ day not noted) and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ proved on June 28, 1740 before Owen Evans, J.P. but not recorded until April 20, 1815, after the establishment of Montgomery County (deed book 32 p. 90). In this deed Conrad Custer and Susanna his wife; Paul Custer and Sarah his wife; George Custer and Mary his wife; Arnold Custer and Barbara his wife (they the said Conrad, Paul, George, Nicholas and Arnold - being the sons of ~~XXXXX~~ Arnold Custer, late of Hanover Township, Phila. Co., bricklayer, deed.) John Jenkins and Katharine his wife (she being one of the daughters of the said Arnold the father) and Dorothy Custer and Hannah Custer the other daughters of the said deceased Arnold Custer conveyed to James Brooke of Hanover Township, yeoman, for 170 pounds, 200 acres in Hanover Twp., being a part of a tract of 316 acres which the said father had purchased on Feb. 1, 1714 from John Henry Springell, the said 316 acres being ~~XXXXX~~ a part of a tract of 22,377 acres. Arnold Custer (the father) with his brothers Johannes and Hermanus and their parents Paulus and Gertrude (Streepers) Kuster, came to this country from Crefeld, Germany, and settled at Germantown. His wife was a sister of Wilhelm Streypers, one of the original Crefeld purchasers, and a cousin of Abraham op den Graeff, the grand-father of Susanna (Addams) Custer. Paulus Kuster (same as Custer=Kistard=Kister, etc.) was a Mennonite, and a mason by trade. He died 1707/8 in Germantown, and his nuncupative will declared 11th. mo. 28, 1707/8, was proved Feb. 23, 1707/8, letters of administration being granted to Arnold, Hermanus and Johannes Huster, the widow Gertrude having died between the writing and proving dates of the will. Elizabeth, Arnold and Herman Kuster were members of the Mennonites at Germantown. On. ~~XXX~~ p. 946 "Hist. Montg. Co. Pa." it is stated that Conrad Custer owned about 200 acres in Lower Salford Township, in 1719. ~~XXXXX~~ On May 10th. 1728, he joined with other residents of Van Bibber's Town (including Richard Addams, Jacob op den Graeff and Israel Morris) in a petition to Governor Gordon for protection from the Indians-p. 104, "The DuPuy Family." Of Conrad Custer and his descendants we have no definite record other than what has just been cited. A certain Conrad Custard (possibly

this man) warranted a plot of 101 acres in Bucks Co. Pa., Oct. 10, 1749, and an additional plot of 50 acres in the same County Feb. 17, 1749, and was the owner of land in Nockamixon Township Bucks Co. Pa. in 1763. In 1790, the only "Head of A family" named Custard, Custer, etc., in Bucks Co. Pa., was Joseph Custard, whose family consisted of himself, one white male under 16, and two white females. A certain Conrad Custard and wife then lived in Alleghany Co. Pa., as did also Benjamin Custard and Noah Custard and their wives, while many of the name lived in Montgomery Co. Pa. In that portion of Virginia covered by the available (undestroyed~~XX~~ by the British) early census records, there was only one family of the name, Arnold Custard, of Rockingham County, whose family consisted of "four white souls." The Augusta County Va. ~~XX~~ records contain very numerous references to persons of the name, from about 1750 ~~XX~~ to 1800. Among these the given names Conrad, Arnold, and Paul appearing most frequently. It is said (with what accuracy has not been proved) that the descendants of Arnold Custer (the original man of the name noted above) are related to the Ball Family of Virginia, to which belonged the mother of George Washington. ~~XX~~ On p. 1490 of Montgomer's "Hist. Berks Co. Pa." it is stated that Paul Custer who resided on Perkiomen Township, Montgomery Co. Pa., from 1708 to 1760, married Sarah Martha Ball, daughter of John Ball of Virginia, a relative of George Washington; this Paul is there stated to have been a son of Hermannus Kuster (a brother of Arnold) although the deed from the children of Arnold Custer in 1735, shows that Arnold's son Paul's wife was named Sarah. In this connection it is interesting to note that one of the stones in the yard of St. James P. E. Church of Perkiomen reads "Sarah, wife of Paul Custer, died Dec. 4, 1792, aged 42 years. Evidently these were of a later generation.

CHILDREN OF CONRAD AND SUSANNA (ADDAMS) KUSTER=CUSTER

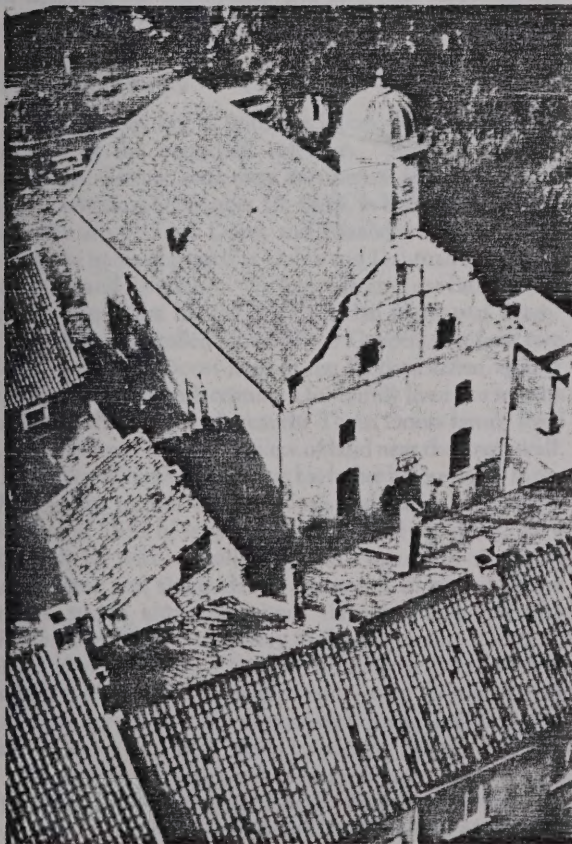
- 411- KUSTER, referred to by Richard Addams in 1747/8, but not by name. No other record.
- 412- KUSTER, referred to by Richard Addams in 1747/8, but not by name. No other records

There were at least these two children, and possibly others of whom no records have as yet been identified.

Leaving their homeland with the dream of a better life in America, these pioneers faced the rigors of establishing themselves in the New World.

The Kusters and Doors of Kaldenkirchen, Germany, and Germantown, Pennsylvania

by Chester E. Custer

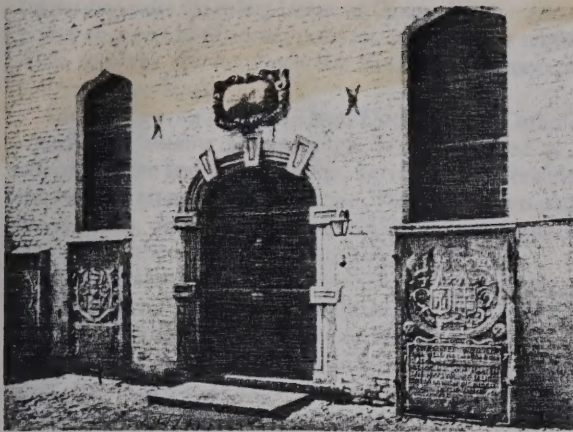


The Reformed church in Kaldenkirchen, Germany.

Paulus Kuster and his wife, Gertrude Doors, were among the earliest members of the Mennonite congregation in Germantown, Pennsylvania. They were my emigrant ancestors—that is, my seventh-generation grandparents. Researching my family has taken me to the ancestral home in Kaldenkirchen, Germany. During three recent summers my wife and I have visited Kaldenkirchen, where the Kuster and Doors families lived. Kaldenkirchen is a small village nestled among the forests and lies only a short distance from the Netherlands border. Having little or no military significance, the village escaped the ravages of the two world wars.

The Roman Catholic and Reformed churches in which the Kusters and the Doors worshipped over three hundred years ago still stand in Kaldenkirchen today—almost across the street from each other. The church has played a significant role in this family's history. The medieval coat of arms for the Custer family is a cross with two crossbars. The family name of *Custer* is the anglicized form of the German *Küster*, which means "one in charge of the sacristy where the sacramental vessels and vestments are kept." This suggests that someone in the family held that position. Even today in Germany the custodian or sexton of the church is called the *Küster*.

The Reformed church in Kaldenkirchen still has the baptismal and communion vessels that were used when the family attended there as well as the original church records dating back to 1663 and listing the family baptisms and marriages. The German found in the written records reflects a strong Dutch influence, making translation difficult. Leo Peters, a professional archivist and linguist of Kaldenkirchen, assisted in the translation of some of the difficult



The entrance to the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church displays elaborate woodwork and stone carvings.

passages. Records of the Catholic church at Kaldenkirchen also have been examined. These are written in Latin and are housed in the archives of Kempen. Research was also done at Krefeld, from whence the 1683 "German Pilgrims" left for the New World; in the Mennonite library in the Weierhof; and in the archives at Düsseldorf, where the most interesting discovery was made—that of original court records of 1655–56 detailing the controversy and civil case involving the parents of Gertrude (Doors) Kuster.

The Doors Family

This account begins with the Doors side of the family because of the important role they played in the first significant German settlement in America. Matthias/Theiss Doors was born September 18, 1614, in Kaldenkirchen. He was the son of Peter Doors and Elizabeth Grietes. Sometimes the name appeared as Dahrs and Dahrmans and even as Peters and Peterschen. We know from these latter forms of the name that his father's Christian name was Peter.¹ Peter Doors also called himself Peter Cuypers.² At least two large families of Doors lived in the Kaldenkirchen vicinity during the seventeenth century. One family lived in a marshy area near the village, whereas the Theiss Doors family lived in a little house on a small piece of land near the town wall. Theiss was a shopkeeper as was his father before him.³ In the Mennonite records of the village and parish of Kaldenkirchen of 1652 he is described as "a retail merchant, has a building lot with a small house and a quarter of an acre of arable land and alongside it a quarter of an acre of fishery rights, worth altogether about three hundred and fifty Reichstalers."⁴ A similar story in the Mennonite records of 1683 that speaks of "Lyssgen [Elizabeth] Daers widow whose husband died a few days ago" with "property, after all debts are paid off out of principal, [that] shall be worth about 36 Reichstalers," seems to refer to Theiss's parents.⁵

Theiss Doors' baptismal record indicates that he was a Roman Catholic.⁶ Neessgen/Agnes, his wife, may have been a Mennonite.⁷ Theiss and Agnes lived in an era of religious and political tumult. The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648)

began when Theiss was only four years old and lasted until the time he would have married. Beginning as a religious war between the Catholics and Protestants of Europe, it claimed the lives of nearly 4,500,000 Germans alone.⁸ It was

remembered for its unspeakable bitterness, by the people whose farm land it tormented. No atrocity too gross had been left unvented, no known store of food unrifled, no castle or farmstead or village within reach unwrecked. Historians have repeatedly confessed the inadequacy of words to evoke the degradation and brutality and cynicism of the spectacle—Swedish, Spanish, Dutch, Swiss, French, and German soldiers tramping back and forth over the suffering Palatine landscape, foraging, looting, smashing, raping, killing, and burning.⁹

This was the Germany that Theiss and Agnes Doors knew as they grew to adulthood.

The Treaty of Westphalia that brought an end to the Thirty Years' War in 1648 "in a sense marked the end of the Reformation period. Each great camp decided to tolerate the existence of the other."¹⁰ That treaty granted the Reformed church equal rights with the Catholic and Lutheran churches, but these rights were not extended to Mennonites. At best, Mennonites were simply tolerated. They were even forced to pay a special tax for the privilege of living and working among the other citizens. They frequently suffered discrimination, persecution, and banishment.

Kaldenkirchen was one of the centers of religious and political unrest. After the Treaty of 1648 especially difficult times were known to Mennonites in the duchies of Jülich and Cleves, where Kaldenkirchen is located. "In 1609 the so-called Jülich-Cleve war of succession broke out and lasted until 1666."¹¹ The predominantly Catholic rulers of this area "participated zealously in the Counter Reformation after the end of the Thirty Years' War (1648), with the result that expelled Mennonites fled both up the Rhine to the Palatinate and to Krefeld, a Protestant-controlled island of

¹Wilhelm Niepoth, "The Ancestry of the Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants of 1683," trans. John Brockie Lukens, *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* 31 (No. 3, 1980): 201. See also the original article, "Die Abstammung der 13 Auswanderer von Krefeld nach Pennsylvania im Lichte niederrheinischer Quellen," *Die Heimat* (Sommer 1953): 6.

²Emil Becker, "Der Kaldenkirchener Kreis unter den 13 Auswandererfamilien von Krefeld nach Pennsylvania aus dem Jahre 1683," *Heimatsbuch des Kreises Viersen* 1983 (Mönchengladbach: Weiss & Zimmer, 1983), p. 76.

³*Ibid.*, p. 76.

⁴Niepoth, "Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants": 201.

⁵*Ibid.*: 201.

⁶Becker, "Kaldenkirchener Kreis," p. 76.

⁷Niepoth, "Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants": 203.

⁸*Encyclopedia Americana*, 1953 ed., s.v. "Peace of Westphalia."

⁹John L. Ruth, *Maintaining the Right Fellowship: A Narrative Account of Life in the Oldest Mennonite Community in North America*, Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History, no. 26 (Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 1984), pp. 25–26.

¹⁰Arthur Wilford Nagler, *The Church in History* (New York: Abingdon Press, 1929), p. 169.

¹¹Cornelius J. Dyck, "European Mennonite Motivation for Emigration, 1650–1750," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 6 (October 1983): 6.

toleration under the ruling House of Orange.”¹² Everything points to a period of social, political, and religious unrest. That was the era in which the Kusters and Doors of Kaldenkirchen lived.

Some time prior to 1655 Theiss Doors left the Catholic church and became a Mennonite. Now identified as a nonconformist and an Anabaptist, he was soon to become the focus of attention in a civil case. The twenty-two-page handwritten document of that 1655-56 court case is preserved in the archives at Düsseldorf.¹³

Now faced with the possibility of being banished from Kaldenkirchen, Theiss was fined 100 gold guilders for some kind of presumed violation. Because he was unable to pay the fine, the authorities confiscated the goods in his shop to meet the imposed penalty. Furthermore, the bailiff of Kaldenkirchen entered the Doors home and became engaged in an argument with Agnes. He struck her in the face and treated her badly. All of this took place only a few days before she was to give birth to a child. Charges were filed which resulted in the case's eventually being taken before the Duke of Jülich. The Elector, Philipp Wilhelm, who was at that time Duke of Jülich and sovereign of the land, decreed that Theiss could stay on in Kaldenkirchen and should not be further molested.¹⁴

Agnes had entered their children in the Reformed church school. “But in order to ease the stress and pressure from the officials, Theiss Doors changed the children to the Catholic school and had the infant daughter Margarita baptized as a Catholic on January 4, 1655.”¹⁵ Arnold Kusters/Kuster was one of the sponsors at her baptism, and Catharine, Arnold's wife, carried the baby to the church.¹⁶ Arnold Kusters and Catharine von Härn were the parents of Paulus Kuster, who would later marry Gertrude Doors, the ten-year old sister of the infant Margarita. The baptism reveals the close association of the Doors and Kuster families some time prior to the marriage of Paulus and Gertrude.

The church affiliation of Theiss and Agnes Doors was soon to change again. In the assertions of the trial witnesses on January 20, 1656, it was said “that Theis Gohrs or Peterschen [Doors], born at Kaldenkirchen of Catholic parents, later adhering to the Anabaptist sect (joined the Reformed Church three months ago but did this only to escape persecution).”¹⁷ Thus Theiss and Agnes at this time associated with the Reformed church. Theiss would have joined that church about October 1655. It is said that Agnes belonged to the Reformed church in Kaldenkirchen from 1655 on.¹⁸

Doors Emigrants

Theiss and Agnes were the parents of nine or ten children. Wilhelm Niepoth wrote: “The following family tree of Theis Doors represents an attempt which indeed rests upon a line of reasoning supported by sound sources but needs further archival supports. Above all it must now be established whether all the Doors were brothers and sisters.” The children of Theiss and Agnes whom he lists are as follows:

1. Anna Doors
m.(1) Heinrich Kürlis
m.(2) Johann [Jan] Streppers
2. Peter Doors
3. Gertrude Doors
m. Paulus Küsters
4. Johanna Doors
5. Helen Theissen
m. Tonis Kunders
6. Elizabeth Doors
m. Peter Kürlis
7. Margarita Doors
8. Reiner Theissen
9. Herman Doors¹⁹

Such German scholars as Niepoth, Becker, Rothhoff, Lenders, and Nieper have contributed greatly to this research. Let us look briefly at the family members who made the seventy-five-day voyage on the *Concord* in 1683 as well as those who came later. One cannot help but wonder to what extent the harassment and persecution Theiss and Agnes had experienced as Mennonites might have influenced their children's eventual decision to emigrate.

Referring to the Quaker Jan Streppers of Kaldenkirchen, John L. Ruth writes:

His wife came from a large family that had multiple connections among Mennonites, Reformed and Quakers. We find a surprisingly large contingent of relatives of this couple (probably eight of the original “thirteen”) among the emerging group of local artisans [from Krefeld] willing to risk a trip to Pennsylvania [in 1683]. Not only would Streppers' oldest son Lenart, now about thirteen, be sent along as an apprentice to a young weaver, but Jan's slightly older brother Wilhelm (leaving permanently behind his wife and five children) and the five siblings of Jan's wife—children of Matheis Doors—would soon join the emigration.²⁰

Entgen/Anna Doors after the death of her first husband, Heinrich Kürlis, married Jan Streppers in the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church on May 12, 1669. William Penn conveyed 5,000 acres of land to Jan in 1682 for £100 sterling as he had to Jacob Telner and Dirk Sipman. Although Jan and Anna did not emigrate to America, Jan possibly spent a short time in Pennsylvania between 1691 and 1706 or between 1706 and 1709. Their son Lenart/Leonard did make the voyage with the Krefelders in 1683. The thirteen-

¹²John L. Ruth, “A Christian Settlement ‘In Antiquam Silvam’: The Emigration from Krefeld to Pennsylvania in 1683 and the Mennonite Community of Germantown,” *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 57 (October 1983): 311.

¹³*Jülich-Berg*, II, no. 252, Folio 80ff, housed in the archives of Düsseldorf. See also Johannes Lenders, “Die Widertäufer im Amt Brügg, insbesondere in den Städten Dülken und Kaldenkirchen,” *Jülich-bergische Geschichtsblätter*, 1931, S. 377ff.

¹⁴Niepoth, “Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants”: 201.

¹⁵Becker, “Kaldenkirchener Kreis,” p. 76.

¹⁶*Jülich-Berg*, II, No. 252.

¹⁷Niepoth, “Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants”: 203.

¹⁸*Ibid.*: 204.

¹⁹*Ibid.*: 204-205.

²⁰Ruth, “Christian Settlement”: 314.

year-old boy was placed under the care of Jan and Mercken Lensen in exchange for 50 acres of land Lenart's father gave him and for the use of "a linen weaving stool and three combs" for three years. Lenart was to be taught the weaving trade in the new colony. Presumably the Lensens were to provide him with room, board, and clothing. Jan and Mercken Lensen would be the only emigrants of 1683 to remain Mennonites after their arrival in Germantown. Entgen/Anna Doors died in Kaldenkirchen on August 2, 1700, and Jan Streypers, her husband, died there on May 6, 1715.

Helen Theissen, who bore her father's first name (literally, the daughter of Theiss), was born about 1650. She was baptized in the Goch Mennonite Church on May 20, 1670.²¹ She married Tonis Kunders in the Krefeld Reformed Church on May 31, 1677. His name appears as Dennis Cunders, Anthony Conrad, and Tönis Heckers in various records; the name sometimes appears as Keunen and Conders. Tonis and Helene and their children were among the 1683 emigrants. They had buried a child only a month before sailing for America. William I. Hull writes that "Thones Kunders brought with him three sons born in Krefeld"²²—that is, Conrad, Matthias, and Jan. Tonis and Helene had other children born in Germantown.

Elizabeth Doors married Peter Kürlis/Kurling in the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church on March 17, 1675. They, too, emigrated in 1683 with their small children—Metje, Johannes, Metgen, and Angenes. They had buried a child three years before the voyage, possibly an earlier daughter who also bore the name Metgen.

Reiner Theissen (son of Theiss), who also went by his father's first name, was born in 1659. He was single when he made the voyage in 1683. He married in 1685 in Germantown a Margaret, presumed to have been either Margaret Kunders or Margaret Streypers. Reiner died near Fitzwatertown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on July 27, 1745.

Herman Doors, baptized in the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church on September 16, 1663, was the unmarried son of Theiss and Agnes who emigrated to Germantown in the latter part of 1684.

Gertrude Doors was born about 1645. She and her husband, Paulus Kuster, and their family came to Germantown about 1690. More will be said about them later.

In addition to the foregoing family members who emigrated to Germantown in 1683 or shortly thereafter, some genealogists claim the following Doors and Theissen children belong to this same family.

Agnistan/Agnes Doors is said to have married Leonard Arents. They, too, were among the 1683 emigrants. John L. Ruth refers to Lenart Arets as Jan Streyper's brother-in-law.²³ In a letter to his brother William in Germantown Jan Streypers wanted William to see that his (Jan's) "five families" were provided land in that village. The translator of that document listed the names of the families. "There went to Germantown Jan Streepers' brother William Streepers. Reiner and Herman Tyson were Jan Streper's wife's brothers. Thomas Conradt/Kunders, Leonard Arets, and Paulus Custers were their brothers-in-law."²⁴ No

reference is made here, however, to Peter Kürlis as a brother-in-law, which causes one to wonder on what basis the translator identified the "five families" of Jan Streypers.²⁵

Merken/Maria Theissen is considered by Emil Becker and others to have been the daughter of Theiss and Agnes.²⁶ She is said to have married Jan Luckens. John Brodie Lukens, however, has observed that though American writers such as William I. Hull state that Jan Luckens' wife was Maria Theissen, a sister to Reiner, he found no indication where Jan was married more than once. He noted that Niepoth said Jan Luckens married Merken/Maria Gastes.²⁷ Guido Gotthoff wrote that Jan Luckens married first Merken Gastes but that he left her in Germany, just as Wilhelm Streypers had left his wife, and that shortly after coming to America in 1683 he married Maria Theissen.²⁸

Samuel T. Tyson wrote that "Reynier Tyson brought with him from the old country his young brother, Derrick [Dirck], who died unmarried a few years after his arrival."²⁹ This same information appears in the program celebrating the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Germantown, held in Germantown in October 1933. Possibly Dirck was among the eight children on the *Concord*, but William I. Hull could not identify all of them.³⁰

Furthermore, it has been claimed that Reiner Theissen's brother Cornelius emigrated to Germantown in 1684³¹ or by 1703. If he came in 1684, he may have made the voyage with his brother, Herman Doors. Cornelius's wife was Margaret. They named their oldest son Matthias, as did Reiner, which might indicate that Theiss and Agnes were, in fact, his parents. Two of their daughters are said to have married the sons of Tonis Kunders and Helene Theissen. If Cornelius belonged to the Theiss Doors family, they would have been cousins to one another. Further documentation is needed regarding his family relationship. James Tyson wrote to Samuel Tyson, Sr., on September 17, 1890: "One of the questions I most desire to settle is the relationship between Cornelius and Reynier Tyson. . . . Cornelius Tyson was not a Friend, but a Mennonite. . . . Altho' there is reason to believe he was a brother of Reynier Tyson there is no proof of it."³²

²¹Niepoth, "Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants": 204.

²²William I. Hull, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania*, Swarthmore College Monographs on Quaker History, no. 2 ([Swarthmore, Pa.: Swarthmore College], 1935), p. 395.

²³Ruth, "Christian Settlement": 315.

²⁴From records of Donald M. Custer, Salida, Colorado, August 7, 1975.

²⁵See also Friedrich Nieper, *Die ersten deutschen Auswanderer von Krefeld nach Pennsylvanien* (Neukirchen: Buchhandlung des Erziehungsvereins, 1940), p. 91.

²⁶Becker, "Kaldenkirchener Kreis," p. 76.

²⁷Niepoth, "Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants": 196.

²⁸Guido Rothhoff, "Die Auswanderung von Krefeld nach Pennsylvanien im Jahre 1683," *Die Heimat* 53 (1982): 18.

²⁹Samuel Traquair Tyson, *A Contribution to the History and Genealogy of the Tyson and Fitzwater Families* ([Los Angeles?: Privately published], 1922), p. 11.

³⁰Hull, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration*, p. 395.

³¹Alexander Dubin, *Tyson Family and Collateral Lines* (Philadelphia, Pa.: Historical Publishing Society, 1948), p. 6.

³²Tyson, *Tyson and Fitzwater Families*, p. 6.

Also in the 1683 company of emigrants were the three Op den Graeff brothers, presumed to have been cousins of Jan and William Streypers. Most of the people who made up the first permanent German settlement in America apparently were related; a significant number of them were members of the family of Theiss and Agnes Doors. Although it is commonly believed that these 1683 emigrants were all Mennonites, this is only partly true. "Numerous Quaker missionaries, beginning with William Ames in 1657, had worked among the Mennonites along the Rhine, and apparently most of the immigrant group had converted to Quakerism prior to departure. Thus, they are often referred to as Mennonite-Quakers."³³ Most of the 1683 immigrants had been Mennonites at one time, but all of them except Jan Lensen and his wife had joined the little group of Krefeld Quakers.³⁴

The Kuster Family

Within the civil records in the archives at Düsseldorf the Kuster family can be traced to Reiner Kuster, who was born about 1542 and died on July 3, 1616.³⁵ The name of Reiner's wife is unknown. Reiner was the father of Johannes Kuster, born in 1576. Johannes married _____ Walburgis in 1598 and died April 8, 1650. They were the parents of Arnold, born about 1606. Arnold married Catharine von Hären on October 13, 1629, and died November 24, 1679. Arnold and Catharine were mentioned earlier in connection with the baptism of Margarita Doors. Each of Arnold's sons named his first-born son after him. Emigrant Paulus Kuster was the son of Arnold and Catharine. The birth date for Paulus cannot be determined because the baptismal records of the Catholic church at Kaldenkirchen between 1640 and 1646 are missing.³⁶ He must have been born some time within that period. The foregoing generations of Kusters were born and married in Kaldenkirchen, and all of them except Paulus died there.

Paulus Kuster, reared as a Roman Catholic, married Gertrude Doors on October 16, 1668, in the Reformed church at Kaldenkirchen. Jakob Flodrop was pastor of the church at that time and probably married them. Paulus apparently left the Catholic church prior to or at the time of his marriage. Gertrude and her parents had been in the Reformed church since 1655.

Paulus and Gertrude had seven known children, all of whom were baptized in the Reformed church at Kaldenkirchen.³⁷ They possibly had others.

Arnold was baptized on June 9, 1669. The witnesses at his baptism were Stina Swig, Ans Strypers (presumed to be Anna, Gertrude's sister), and Noulis Güys, wife of Mattis Custers, brother of Paulus.

Johannes was baptized on October 12, 1670. Jyn Huylkens and Agnet Doors, Gertrude's mother, were the witnesses. Both Arnold and Johannes would have been baptized by Jakob Flodrop.

Matthys was baptized on December 6, 1671, by Johann Melchior with Matthys Doors and Lisbet Doors (Gertrude's father and sister) as witnesses.

Reiner was baptized by Johann Melchior on December 2, 1674. The baptismal record states that Reiner's father was Roman Catholic, that his mother had been a member of the Reformed Church, and that she "for a period of time was unable to use her mental faculties." It is an unusual bit of information to be included in the record. Gertrude's parents, Theiss and Agnes Doors, promised to assume responsibility for the child in her behalf. The witnesses to Reiner's baptism were Wys Doors (Gertrude's father, Matthys), Jochim Huiskens, and Elisabeth Doors (Gertrude's sister). Leo Peters, the archivist and linguist referred to earlier, indicated that one cannot be sure of the exact meaning of the term referring to Gertrude's mental condition. The language of the church records is a confusing combination of German and Dutch. The reference probably meant that she was emotionally distraught or upset or under psychological stress at the time.

Anna was baptized on December 26, 1677. Peter Keurlings (Gertrude's brother-in-law, the husband of Elizabeth), Wilhelm Betten, Agneess Doors (Gertrude's mother), and Jenneken Scremkens were witnesses. Arnold Theodor Scriba was the pastor at the time.

Hermanus was baptized either on October 19, 1681, or on March 15, 1682. There are two baptismal accounts for Hermanus, "a little son of Gertrude Doors," on the same page of the church records. Both are in the same handwriting, presumably that of the pastor, Johannes Adolf Eylert. We do not know if one entry corrects the other, if they refer to the same child, or if there were two mothers named Gertrude, each with a child Hermanus. It would be unlikely that the same child would have been rebaptized. Lenert Hillikens, Arent Simons, and Marij Doors (Gertrude's sister, Margarita) were witnesses at the October 19 baptism. The March 15 witnesses were Peter Sieben and Margryt Doors (Gertrude's sister).

Catrin was baptized on March 9, 1687. The witnesses at her baptism were Nelis Hüben and Frin[?] Hüskens. This is the only baptism for which a member of Gertrude's immediate family is not listed as a witness. By this date most of the family had migrated to America. Arnold Hambach was pastor of the church when Catrin was baptized and when Paulus and Gertrude left Kaldenkirchen for Germantown.

Another daughter, Elizabeth, is listed by some genealogists. Niepoth implies that a daughter Elizabeth was born in Kaldenkirchen but was not baptized there.³⁸ There is no record of a baptism in the Reformed church at Kaldenkirchen for an Elizabeth Kuster. Other genealogists assume that she was born in Germantown. We do know that "Arnold, Elizabeth and Hermanus Kuster" were listed as

³³Dyck, "European Mennonite Motivation": 5.

³⁴Niepoth, "Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants": 207.

³⁵Emil Becker to Chester E. Custer, Mar. 30, 1986; *Jülich-Berg*, II, no. 2970, housed in the archives of Düsseldorf.

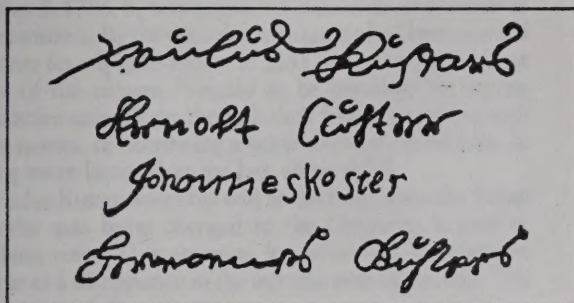
³⁶Ibid.

³⁷The baptismal information comes from the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church records.

³⁸Niepoth, "Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants": 200.

members of the Germantown Mennonite Church in 1708, when the congregation first occupied the new-log meeting-house.³⁹ One source indicates that Arnold married Elizabeth Sellen.⁴⁰ If that is true, the Elizabeth mentioned in 1708 could have been Arnold's wife rather than his sister.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor of the Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, Pennsylvania, referred to "Nicolaus Küster, who died in the Lord," as "the legitimate son of Low German parents, inhabitants of Philadelphia. His father was named Arnold Küster and his mother Rebecca. He saw the light of day there on December 6, 1706."⁴¹ If Elizabeth was, in fact, the wife of Arnold, she



These tracings show the signatures of Paulus Kuster, Arnold Custer, Johannes Koster, and Hermanus Kuster as they appear in original public documents (Milo Custer, *Custer Genealogies* [Bloomington, Ill.: Privately printed, 1944], Appendix).

apparently was his second wife, or possibly his wife had the double name of Rebecca Elizabeth. We are told that Matthias Tyson, son of Cornelius and Margaret, married Barbara Sellen, a daughter of Hendrick Sellen, an early Germantown settler. Possibly Elizabeth and Barbara were from the same family. Further research is needed regarding the identification of Elizabeth.

Paulus and Gertrude Kuster went to Germantown some time between the baptism of Catrin on March 9, 1687, in Kaldenkirchen and May 1691. Emigrating with them were their three sons—Arnold, Johannes, and Hermanus. Arnold and Johannes would have been about twenty years of age, and Hermanus, eight or nine years when the family made the voyage. It is not known if Matthys and Reiner, who would have been young men at the time, remained in Germany or if they had died previously. Anna would have been about thirteen, and Catrin, only an infant. Thus far there is no mention of them in America. Possibly they died in Germany.

Among the sixty-two persons naturalized on May 7, 1691, in Philadelphia were Johannes Kusters and Paul Kastner. This might have referred to Paulus Kuster. Also naturalized at that time were Tennis Conderts/Tonis Kunders, Lenart Arets, Reinert Tissen/Theissen, Peter Keurlis, William Streipers, Jan Lucken, and the three Op den Graeff brothers—all referred to earlier.⁴² Tennis Conderts, Lenart Arets, Jan Lucken, and Reiner Tissen were re-naturalized in 1709.⁴³

Paulus and Gertrude probably emigrated to Germantown because several of Gertrude's own family had already settled

there. No doubt the social, political, and religious unrest they knew in Kaldenkirchen also led them to America where William Penn's "Holy Experiment" promised a better life. Possibly there was a growing need for Paulus Kuster's skills as a stonemason and bricklayer in the newly established village of Germantown. Although the earliest houses were sometimes referred to as "caves," half under and half above ground, we are told that by 1700 some large and comfortable stone houses had been erected. The region abounded in sandstone, and probably Paulus found employment at his craft in helping to build some of those houses.

The Kusters as Mennonites

When Paulus and Gertrude arrived in Germantown, they became Mennonites. Although Gertrude's parents had joined the Reformed church in order to escape persecution as Mennonites, in their home they undoubtedly instilled within their children the values central to the Mennonite faith. Gertrude would have been unable to forget her parents' suffering for conscience sake when she was only a child. She and Paulus were drawn to this small company of people whose history was one of discrimination in the land they left behind.

Having arrived in Germantown about 1690, they would have been among the very early Mennonites there. Only two Mennonite families lived in Germantown in 1684. "By 1690, when the Rittenhouse paper mill was built on the Monoshone Creek, the population of Germantown had reached 175."⁴⁴ Ten years later nearly sixty families lived along the mile-long road that was known as Germantown. About a dozen of them were Mennonites.⁴⁵ Thus by the time Paulus and Gertrude arrived, very few Mennonite families would have lived in the little community.

Paulus Kuster's name appears on the tax list of heads of families residing in Germantown in 1693. On December 2,

³⁹Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker, "The Settlement of Germantown, Pennsylvania, and the Beginning of German Immigration to North America," *Pennsylvania-German Society Proceedings and Addresses* 9 (1899): 227-228. See also Naaman H. Keyser, et al., *History of Old Germantown with a Description of Its Settlement and Some Account of Its Important Persons, Buildings and Places Connected with Its Development* (Germantown, Pa.: Horace F. McCann, 1907), pp. 72-73.

⁴⁰Information from the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. Information from Elizabeth Morgan and N. B. Grubb, pastor of the First Mennonite Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1882 to 1920, indicates that "Arnold Kuster married Elizabeth

⁴¹Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, *The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg*, trans. Theodore G. Tappert and John W. Doberstein (Philadelphia: Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States, 1942-1958 [the entry of December 10, 1748], 3: 635-636.

⁴²Hull, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration*, pp. 420-421.

⁴³*Ibid.*, p. 421.

⁴⁴Ruth, *Maintaining the Right Fellowship*, p. 71n.

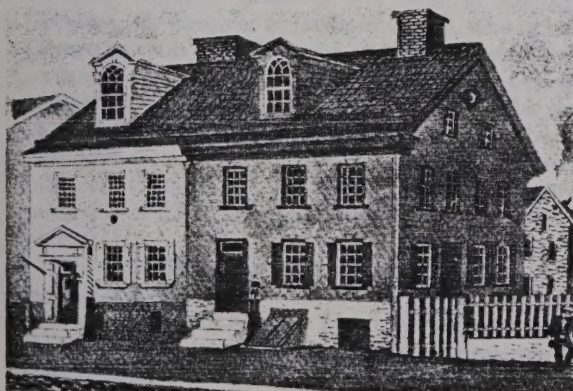
⁴⁵*Ibid.*, p. 75.

1700, he was chosen to be a committeeman. His son Arnold refused to serve in that capacity in 1702 because of conscientious scruples. Jan Lensen, the first Mennonite in the community, also sought exemption as a committeeman, claiming that "his conscience would not allow it."⁴⁶ Such a position involved taking an oath, which conflicted with Mennonite principles. As early as 1701 Pastorius wrote to William Penn saying that he would not get men to serve in the General Court because of "conscience sake" and that he trusted the situation would be remedied by the arrival of new immigrants.⁴⁷ On December 4, 1704, Paulus Kuster purchased 50 acres of land from Henry Buchholtz, and on January 5, 1706, he was appointed as an overseer of fences in Germantown. By the time the community had been granted a charter for self-government in 1691, it was recognized that some of the citizens "needed to be punished for letting destructive animals get through their fences, or calling each other names, or borrowing a horse without permission, or selling more liquor than the law allowed."⁴⁸

Paulus Kuster wrote his will at the time when the Julian calendar was being changed to the Gregorian system of marking time. This accounts for what would otherwise appear as a discrepancy in the introduction of the will. The will reads as follows:

Germantown in the Co. of Phila. the 28th day of the 11th Month called January, Anno Dom. 1707-8, Paul Kuster, Mason [i.e., stone mason], being sick in Body, but of perfect Memory and disposing Mind, declares before us, the hereto Subscribers, Witnesses, that his last Will and Testament was as follows. Viz. That all his just debts shall be paid and that after his decease his loving wife, Gertrude Kuster, shall have all and Singular his Estate, real and personal, during the Term of her life, and yt after ye Death of ye sd. wife, the sd. his Estate, real and Personal, shall, nothing at all Excepted, be divided and shared among his children Equally, share and share alike.

In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Marks. Arnold Custer. Dennis Cunders. Hermanus



This view of Germantown Avenue opposite Manheim Street shows the site of the Dennis/Tonis/Thones Kunder house, which occupied the site of the barber shop on the left. Only a part of the old wall remains. The first Quaker meeting in Germantown was reputedly held in his house in 1683. Kunders was the Quaker brother-in-law of Paulus Kuster.

Kusters. Johannes Kusters. The Mark of X, Cornelius DeWees. Endorsed: Philad. Feb. 23rd, 1707-8.⁴⁹

Although the names of the children who were to receive equal shares after Gertrude's death were not listed in the will, we know that Arnold, Hermanus, and Johannes (witnesses thereto) were his sons. Dennis Cunders was Tonis Kunders, the Quaker brother-in-law of Paulus. Cornelius DeWees was the son-in-law of Johannes, recently married to his daughter Margaret.

The will was written on January 28, 1707, according to the old Julian calendar, and on February 8, 1708, according to the new Gregorian calendar. It was proved on February 23, 1707 (Julian), and on March 6, 1708 (Gregorian). This means that Paulus would have died some time between February 8 and March 6, 1708, according to the calendar we use today.

Gertrude died "soon after" the death of Paulus. She had died prior to February 23 (Julian), when the will of Paulus was proved as the following document indicates:

Peter Evans Esq' Lieu' Gov' of the Province of Pennsylvania & y^e Countys of New Castle, Kent & Sussex on Delaware—TO ARNOLT KUSTERS, HARMANUS KUSTERS & JOHANNES KOSTERS all of German Town yeom—GREETING WHEREAS Paul Kuster of German Town Mason [i.e., stone mason] lately dec'd having while he lived & at the Time of his Death Goods Rights & Credits within y^e said province & County did by his Nuncupative Will & Testament a true Copy whereof is hereunto annexed Ordain & Make his wife Gertrude Universal Legatee thereof, which sd Gertrude Soon after dyed intestate I desiring that the goods, Rights & Credits w^{ch} were of the sd Deced^s Paul & Gertrude may be well & Truly Administred Converted & Disposed of to Pious Uses & the sd Nuncupative Will & Testam^t have its due effect. Do hereby grant unto you the said Arnolt Kustur, Harmanus Custur & Johannes Koster (in whose fidelity in this behalf I very much confide) Ffull power by the Tenour of these presents according to the Effect of the sd Testament to Administer the Goods & Chattels Rights & Credits of the sd Deced^s Paul & Gertrude. . . . IN TESTAMONY Whereof I have caused the Seal of the sd Office to be hereunto affixed Dated at Philad^a aforesd the Twenty Third day of Ffebruary in the Sixth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne, by the Grace of God Queen of Great Britain France & Ireland Defender of the ffaith &c. February y^e 23rd Anno Dni 1707/8.

Pet. Evans D Reg^{ty}⁵⁰

In all probability Paulus and Gertrude were buried in the Germantown Mennonite Cemetery, established on February 10, 1703, when Arnold von Fossen conveyed to Jan Neuss, a deacon and trustee, three square perches of

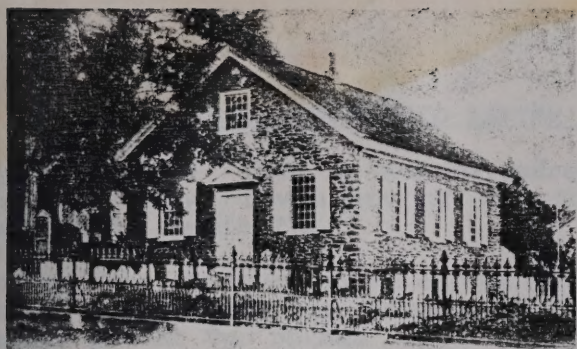
⁴⁶Ruth, "Christian Settlement": 323.

⁴⁷C. Henry Smith, *The Mennonites of America* (Goshen, Ind.: 1909), pp. 130-131.

⁴⁸Ruth, "Christian Settlement": 323.

⁴⁹Will book C, no. 58, p. 72, Register of Wills Office, Philadelphia County Courthouse, Philadelphia, Pa.

⁵⁰Ibid.



Paulus and Gertrude Kuster were probably buried in the Germantown Mennonite Cemetery.

land for the purpose of erecting a meetinghouse.⁵¹ They would have been among the earliest persons buried there.

The early Kuster Mennonites were closely associated with and were among the founders of the first Mennonite congregation in America. The first preacher chosen by the Germantown Mennonites was William Rittenhouse, who died February 18, 1708, about the same time as Paulus and Gertrude.

Some of the descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kuster married members of other early Mennonite families. For instance, the grandson of Paulus and Gertrude married Jacob Gottschalk's daughter. (Peter Kuster, the son of Hermanus Kuster and Isabella Conrad, married Ann Gottschalk.) Jacob Gottschalk, from the Cleve area of Germany, has been called the "first Mennonite bishop of Germantown and Skippack."⁵² Likewise, the granddaughter of Jan Neuss, a silversmith from Krefeld and the first deacon chosen by the Mennonites, married the great-grandson of Paulus and Gertrude. (Anna Maria Fedele, daughter of Peter Fedele and Susanna Neuss, married Emanuel Custer, the grandson of Arnold.)

Arnold and Hermanus Kuster remained Mennonites, whereas Johannes became a Quaker. Johannes married Elizabeth Cassell on August 31, 1692, in the Abington Monthly Meeting. Elizabeth was born in Kresheim, Germany, the daughter of Johannes Cassell, who came to Germantown in 1686. Johannes and Elizabeth were living in Bristol, Pennsylvania, in 1693. Returning to Germantown shortly thereafter, Johannes served as constable there in 1695-97, 1700, and 1706. He and Hermanus bought 200 acres of land in Skippack in 1704. Johannes was a burgess of Germantown in 1707. He died in Germantown in the fall of 1708, only six months after the death of his parents.⁵³

Hermanus Kuster married Isabella Conrad in 1706. Isabella was the daughter of Peter Conrad—a family name derived from that of Kunders. Hermanus and Arnold were listed as members and as having received communion in the Germantown Mennonite Church on May 23, 1708.⁵⁴ Hermanus later settled on the land he and Johannes had purchased in Skippack and became an active member of the Mennonite congregation in that vicinity. He was a farmer and one of the pioneer Mennonite settlers of the Skippack

community—a community that was menaced by the Shawnee Indians in the spring of 1728. Although no lives were lost in the raid, Hermanus was among those who signed the Falckner's Swamp petition that was sent to the governor general. Hermanus was a trustee of Bebbler's Township. The trustees had received 100 acres of land from Van Bebbler on June 8, 1717, on which a schoolhouse was built and a burying ground located. The Custer Fulling Mill, constructed in 1752 in the Skippack Valley, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hermanus wrote his will in the early part of 1760. He died in Montgomery County sometime about February of that year.⁵⁵

Arnold Kuster remained a Mennonite. As indicated earlier, his wife may have been Elizabeth Sellen; however, according to Muhlenberg, his wife was named Rebecca. Her last name has not been authenticated. Arnold was a bricklayer as was his father before him. On February 1, 1714, he purchased 316 acres of land from John Henry Sprogell and his wife on the Manatawney Tract. Arnold and Rebecca settled on this tract of land on the banks of the Schuylkill River in what is now Berks County but at that time was a part of Philadelphia County. Arnold died at his home located at the mouth of Sprogell's Run in 1739. Letters of administration for his estate were granted to his brother Hermanus on December 22, 1739.⁵⁶ Presumably he and Rebecca were buried in the old Sprogell Cemetery that was located near Sprogell's Run and referred to in various historical records. That cemetery is no longer evident.

So it was that the Kuster and Doors families made their way to America. They lived at a time when the social, political, and religious ethos of Germany was in a state of tumult and transition. Leaving their homeland with the dream of a better life in America, they faced the rigors of the New World with a pioneering spirit. They were among the founders of the first permanent German settlement in America and of the first Mennonite church in this land. This is the heritage we claim. It is the challenge of new beginnings that leads pilgrims of every generation to new frontiers. □

⁵¹Naaman Henry Keyser, "Old Historic Germantown," *The Pennsylvania-German Society Proceedings and Addresses* 15 (1904): 63.

⁵²Harold S. Bender, "The Founding of the Mennonite Church in America at Germantown, 1683-1708," *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 7 (October 1933): 228.

⁵³*The News-Caster* (Richmond, Tex.: Castor Family Association of America) 3 (June 1985): 4.

⁵⁴Information from Elizabeth Morgan and N. B. Grubb. See also Ruth, "Christian Settlement": 325.

⁵⁵From records of Donald M. Custer, Salida, Colorado. Hermanus Kuster wrote his will on January 9, 1760. It was recorded in Will book L, pp. 381-396, Philadelphia.

⁵⁶The Renunciation of Right to Administer: Estate of Arnold Kuster, December 22, 1739, is file no. 35, Orphans' Court, Philadelphia, Pa. The Administrator's Bond, Estate of Arnold Kuster, 1739, is file no. 35, Orphans' Court, Philadelphia, Pa. The Deed, Arnold Kuster's Heirs to James Brooke, 1740, is in Deed book 32, p. 90, Montgomery County Courthouse, Norristown, Pa. See also Milo Custer, *Custer Genealogies* (Bloomington, Ill.: Privately Printed, 1944), pp. i-vi.

INVENTORY FOR ARNOLD KESTER (From the Court File)

May ye 12th 1759 Then we Andrew Sadowski, Abraham Bird and John Thomas have taken above Inventory of the Goods & Chattles of Arnold Kester deceased as followeth Viz

	L	S	D
Two black Cows and two Calves at two pound Each Cow and Calf	4	-	-
one black Cow and Calf at one pound fifteen Shillings	1	15	-
one black Cow at two pounds	2	-	-
one black Cow at one pound ten Shillings	1	10	-
one red bull and one black Steer at twenty Shillings Each	2	-	-
two yearling Steers and one brown heighfer at 12 Each	1	16	-
one brown horse at nine pounds	9	-	-
one brown mare with a small Snip at five pounds	5	-	-
one brown mare with a blaze at five pounds	5	-	-
one ram & one weather & one Ewe at five Shillings each		15	-
his wearing Cloath, at four pound, Eight Shillings	4	8	-
two New hats at ten shillings		10	-
one hunting Saddle at one pound	1	-	-
two pair of heams and two pair of old Iron treaces and back board		8	-
one pair of plough Irons and two Cleaviss at ten Shillings		10	-
two old falling axes, one old broad ax and two old Hooes		12	-
one hand saw, one adze, one drawing knife, old plain Stock & Bits		12	3
and one old awger all at twelve Shillings and three pence		12	3
one old Gun Lock and one broken but piece and broken guard		5	-
one Razor at one Shilling and few Shoemaker tools at three		4	-
Cutting knife Steel and box at five shillings		5	-
one old Chest Lock four old Sickles and one Hockle		8	-
two pots one pot hook and one old frying pan		13	-
one old pewter tea pot and two old pewter Dishes		8	-
Some old wooden vessels at four Shillings		4	-
Some old Bedings at one pound fifteen Shilling	1	15	-
one old Side Saddle at five Shillings		5	-
one bagg and one Sheet at three Shillings		3	-
two pound five Shillings in Cash	2	5	-
two Sows and four Shoats at one pound five Shillings	1	5	-
the one half part of one (whitefan?) at ten Shillings		10	-
one old Small plain Stock and bitt at sixpence			6

Andrew Sadowski
Abraham Bird
John Thomas

At a Court held for Augusta County May the 17th, 1759
This Inventory or Appraisment of the Estate of Arnold Kester decd being
return into Court is Admitted to Record.

Test



report to the people

let them know

norwell youth for christ p. o. box 117 ossian, indiana 46777

the Germanic surnames of Küster and Kaster as being rather common in the Rhine Valley. Usually these names were spelled with a "K" but occasionally were recorded with a "C." The normal German spelling is with the K, and probably the C was introduced in church records by priests because of the Latin influence. German words and names do not begin with the letter C, and when we find words and names in German that begin with a C, they are either words borrowed from another language, or have been affected by a foreign influence. Of course, when these German immigrants came to America, their English speaking neighbors often influenced the spelling of the name to begin with a C, which was more normal for the English speaking people.

Let us consider the family of Paulus and Gertrude Küsters who came from Kaldenkirchen (near Krefeld), Germany between 1687 and 1691. They brought with them sons Arnold, Johannes and Hermanus, and perhaps a daughter Eva. The descendants of son Arnold used the surname Custer or Custard generally, although occasionally we find the use of the surname Kester. The descendants of Johannes used the surname Kester with great consistency. And Hermanus' descendants used the surname Custer consistently. Some of Arnold's descendants who were known as Custard for a few generations, transformed about 1800 to Castor or some variant of Castor. Such variants were Caster, Kaster or Kastor. In a few isolated cases a few decades later, there were changes of Custer to Caster or Castor -- these seem to have occurred among the descendants of Arnold's son Nicholas. The family of Paul and Mary (Garver) Custer is one such case. Paul was born February 1778 in Bertie County, North Carolina, and later settled in Wayne County, Indiana. Paul and Mary had ten children, seven of whom remained Custers, and three of the boys became Casters, thus starting a new strain of Caster. All of these transformations seem strange and unexpected to us today, but we have good evidence to document many of these.

Conrad Custer/Custard of Brock's Gap, Virginia was a son of Arnold Kuster. Several of Conrad's children are well authenticated, while the evidence of others is less certain. Some children used Custer, others Custard, and the youngest, Joseph, seems to have used Kester. Conrad's oldest son, Arnold, died in 1759 (perhaps killed by Indians), leaving a widow and some young children. The youngest two children were Noah and Arnold, and it is suspected strongly that this Noah is the Noah Castor who settled later in Ashland County, Ohio. And we suspect strongly that his son Arnold is the Arnold Castor who settled in Wayne County, Ohio (in a part that later became Holmes County). Conrad's son Isaac died 1780 in Kentucky, and left descendants that used the name Kaster or Kastor. Another son of Conrad was Benjamin who used the name Custard initially, but changed later to Castor. Sons John and George were known as Custard, and several suspected as their descendants used the name Caster or Castor (for example John Caster, Sr.).

But there were many other immigrants in addition to Paulus and Gertrude. We have featured a series of articles beginning in 1987 that chronologically lists Kuster/Caster/Kester immigrants and notes the documentation. Hopefully, use of this list will lead us to more and better insights about the origins of these related names. For example, it now seems evident that Küster and Köster are probably the same name, Küster being the German form and Köster being the Holland or Dutch form. It is said that Küster and Köster are derived from the lower or lesser church offices, and is still applied today in Germany to designate the person who takes care of the sacristy and church valuables. [Note Niepoth's article that appears in this issue explains that the surname Küsters sometimes appears in church records as Custodis.] Those of you who read the December 1986 issue of The News-Caster, page 72, remember

PAULUS KÜSTERS FROM KALDENKIRCHEN AND HIS ANCESTRY

by Wilhelm Niepoth
translated by Guido Küsters

The original unpublished manuscript of Wilhelm Niepoth written in May/June 1954 is in the custody of the Stadtarchiv of Krefeld, West Germany. Guido Küsters has translated this for us. Guido has provided photocopies of the original manuscript and some of the original handwritten notes to the Castor Library. Guido's address is An der Alten Burg 17, D-4150 Krefeld-Hüls, West Germany.

Kaldenkirchen is a little town in the Lower-Rhine Area near the border of the Netherlands and 26 kilometers west of Krefeld. It is a distance of one hour by foot from the Dutch town of Venlo. Kaldenkirchen is the hometown of the stonemason, Paulus Küsters, who emigrated in 1691 with his three sons, Arnold, Johannes and Hermann and his daughter Elisabeth to Germantown. The marriage of Paulus Küsters is documented in the parochial registers of the reformed congregation in Kaldenkirchen:

"16 October 1668 Paulus Küsters J.M. (Jonge Mann = young man) and Gertrud Doors J.D. (Jonge Dochter = young daughter), both of them from Kaldenkirchen."

This couple baptized four children in the reformed church of Kaldenkirchen:

1. Arnold, baptized on 9 June 1669 (henceforth we will use * for the term "baptized") Witnesses were Jan Strepers, Neulen, the wife of Matthys Cüsters and others.
2. Johannes, * 12 December 1670. Witnesses were Agnes Doors (wife of Jan Strepers) and others.
3. Matthys, * 6 December 1671. Witnesses were Matthys Doors, Lisbeth Doors and others.
4. Reiner, * 2 December 1674. Witnesses were grandmother Nys Doors, Elisabeth Doors and others.

Matthys and Reiner died before their emigration to America. The other children, Elisabeth and Hermann, who appeared 1708 in a list of the Mennonites in Germantown, don't appear in the parochial registers of the reformed congregation in Kaldenkirchen. So Paulus became Mennonite between 1674 and 1677, when his next child was born. But he was never mentioned in any Mennonite-Register in the Lower-Rhine Area. Revealing is the following entry in a low-German dialect from the parochial registers of the reformed congregation in Kaldenkirchen:

"2 December 1674 is baptized a little son of Paulus Küsters and Geerdrut Doors, called Reiner - The father is from the Roman faith and the mother unfortunately was deprived for a period of time of the right use of her mental facilities. In her place the grandmother Nys (= Agnes) Doors, Joachim Huiskens and Elisabeth Doors celebrated the holy baptism and promised to take care for the son."

With this document, we see that, aside from the fact of the mental trouble during a period of time, there are two important things:

The original was obtained manuscript of Wilhelm
Katzmann in November 1924 in the
city of the University of Berlin, West Germany.
Goldschmidt has translated this for me. Gold-
schmidt provided photographs of the original man-
uscript and some of the original handwritten notes
to the Goldschmidt Library. Goldschmidt's address is at
Altenburg 17, D-4150 Krefeld-NEA, West Germany.

Katzmann is a little town in the lower-Rhin area near
border of the Netherlands and the Rhine-land west of Krefeld. It is
situated at the foot of the Dutch town of Krefeld. Katzmann
in the town of the Netherlands. During the war, who was situated in
with his three sons, Alfred, Johannes and Hermann and his daughter
Katharina in Krefeld. The warlike in the Krefeld is documented
the personal registers of the town of Krefeld in Krefeld.

12 October 1924 Father Wilhelm K. (born 1885) and
Gerdine (born 1885) (born daughter), both
at their first marriage.

This family was born in the town of Krefeld
Krefeld.

1. Alfred, born on 12 June 1925 (documented as will be
for the town of Krefeld) (documented as will be for the town of Krefeld).
2. Johannes, - 12 December 1927. Witnesses were Ignaz Dore
(of the Krefeld) and others.
3. Wilhelm, - 3 December 1927. Witnesses were Ignaz Dore
and others.
4. Heinrich, - 3 December 1927. Witnesses were Ignaz Dore
and others.
5. Elisabeth, born and others.

Wilhelm and Heinrich were before their marriage to Krefeld. The other
children, Elisabeth and Heinrich, who were born in 1925 is a list of the
documented in Krefeld. The first in the personal registers of the
town of Krefeld in Krefeld. The town of Krefeld is a town of Krefeld.
between 1925 and 1927, when his first child was born. But he was never
mentioned in the personal registers in the lower-Rhin area. Krefeld
is the following entry in a town of Krefeld from the personal
registers of the town of Krefeld in Krefeld:

12 December 1927 he married a little son of Father Wilhelm
and Gerdine Dore, called Heinrich - The father is from the
town of Krefeld and the mother is from the town of Krefeld. In
period of time of the first son of her mother's father. In
the town of Krefeld (the town of Krefeld) Dore, Heinrich
Heinrich and Elisabeth were registered the only children and
promised to take care for the son.

With this document, we see that, which from the fact of the mother
during a period of time, there are two important things:

1. The grandmother was Agnes Doors. Accordingly, the wife of Paulus Küsters, Gertrud Doors, was a daughter of the couple, Theis Doors and Agnes, whose surname is unknown. Theis Doors (Theis = Matthias) was Mennonite, but later confessed with his wife to the reformed church because of persecution. So he can be a witness for Matthys, son of Paulus Küsters in 1671. Theis and Agnes Doors are also parents of Anna Doors, wife of Johann Strepers, Elisabeth Doors, wife of Peter Kürliis, Helena Theissen, married with Tönis Kunders, Reiner Theiseen and Maria Theissen, wife of Jan Lucken, who all emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1683, except the first mentioned couple. They were also parents of Hermann Doors, who followed in 1684. Theis Doors was originally from the Roman faith, baptized so on 12 September 1614 in Kaldenkirchen. His parents were Peter Dohrs/Doormans and Lysgen (Lysgen = Elisabeth) from Kaldenkirchen. Thus the first name of Elizabeth Küsters, who was not baptized in the reformed church of Kaldenkirchen, originates from Gertrude Doors family.

2. Paulus Küsters was from the Roman faith. So we have to continue the research for his ancestors in the parochial registers of the Roman church. The parochial registers from the Roman church in Kaldenkirchen begins comparatively early: baptisms in 1608, marriages in 1619 and deaths in 1613. But they have many gaps, just in the time of interest for the baptisms and deaths of the Küsters family. Nevertheless we obtained some results while studying those registers. Paulus Küsters married in 1668. So he might be born between 1640 and 1648. Between 1628 and 1649 are only two baptisms for men named Küsters or Custodis (Custodis is the Latin word for Küsters): Hermann and Arnold. Hermann married in the Kaldenkirchen church of Roman faith in 1627 Christina Tieses, Arnold married 13 October 1629 Catharine von Hären (spoken: Haren). Hermann baptized periodically between 1628 and 1638 six children. But there is no one called Paulus. So we can eliminate Hermann as the father of Paulus. Paulus had a son called Hermann, but it was the youngest. Paulus' eldest son was called Arnold. Arnold, Paulus' son, was baptized in the reformed church. So it is obvious, that Paulus followed the usage in these circles to give the name of the grandfather to the eldest son. Following this usage, the eldest has to be named like his father's father, the second eldest son has to be named like his mother's father. But the Reformed of Kaldenkirchen did not observe this usage exactly, like the Mennonites did. So we see, that not the second eldest, but the third eldest son was named Matthys like Paulus' father-in-law. People of the Roman faith have no such usage. The names and dates of the children from Arnold Küsters and Catharina van Hären are as follows:

1. Maria, * 21 July 1630
2. ? * 1632/1633
3. Henricus, * 26 May 1635
4. Catharina, * 17 May 1637
5. Matthias, * June 1640
6. Lambertus, * 7 September 1642
7. ? * ca 1644
8. ? * ca 1646
9. Lucia, * 14 February 1649

There are two gaps, the first one in the period between 1630 and 1635, the second one in the period between 1642 and 1649. One child has to be born in the first gap, two children in the second gap. We do not suppose that Paulus could fill the first gap, because he would have been 36 or 37

years old when he married. So he had seen the light of this world in 1644 or 1646. Thus, Arnold Küsters could be the father of Paulus. One confirmation for this is that Neul (Neul = Cornelia), the wife of Matthias Küsters, who was obviously a brother of Paulus, was a witness for the eldest child of Paulus.

We don't know much about the mother, Catharine von Hären, except her date of death (in the registers of the Roman church):

"1679, January 24 - Trin Costers
1686, November 15 - Catharina Cüsters"

Trin is a dialect form of Catharine. Catharine married 1629. She may be born about 1604/1605, because her youngest child was born in 1649, and then Catharine reached the age limit of the ability for bearing children. Thus she would have died at the age of 75 according to the first date, or at the age of 82 according to the second date. We can not finally decide which date belongs to her.

The entry of Hermann Küsters marriage in the Roman church registers of Kaldenkirchen is:

"1627 Hermann, the son of Johann Cüsters with Steyngen Tieses"

We guess, that Hermann and Arnold are brothers, and Paulus named his youngest son after his uncle. Hermann is testified as Johann's son, so Johann has to be the father of Arnold, too. Some additional confirmation is, that "Catharine, uxor [Latin for wife] Arnoldi Cüsters" was witness to Lucia, Hermann's youngest daughter in 1638. Hermann married in 1627, Arnold in 1629. Their baptisms do not appear in the registers beginning in 1608 of the Roman church in Kaldenkirchen, because they were born some time before. But it is possible to find later born children of Johann. First there is:

"1609, 20 September Joannis Küsters and Walpurgis Filius
[Latin for son] Lambertus - Patrini [Latin for witness]
Henricus Putzius, Jan Nooten, Beelken zu Bosch"

Furthermore as children of this couple appear:

Godefridus, * 17 October 1613 (witness: Reinhartt Küsters)
Maria, * 21 April 1615
Reinerus, * 18 May 1618
Catharina, * 11 August 1619

And there is one testified marriage:

"24 October 1621 Goetzen, son of Hein Goetzen von Echt and
Jüdt (= Judith), daughter of Jan Küsters"

This daughter of Johann Küsters, Judith, may be born about 1600. Thus we can fix Hermann's birthdate at about 1603, Arnolds about 1606. Now remember, that Paulus named his second son Johannes like his great grandfather.

There are many other Küsters in the parochial registers of the Roman church, appearing as witnesses or persons who have died. But this is the only continuous ancestry we have worked out here. Johann Küsters, whom

...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

1875, January 12 - This Country
1875, November 12 - This Country

This is a distant form of Catherine. Catherine married 1875, the age
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

The entry of Hermann's marriage is the same as the marriage of
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

"1875 Hermann, the son of Johann and Maria, was born in 1875."

...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

"1875, 20 September 1875 (Hermann and Maria's birth)
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

Catherine, * 17 October 1875 (Hermann's daughter)
Maria, * 21 April 1875
Hermann, * 10 May 1875
Catherine, * 17 August 1875

And there is one married couple:

"The daughter of Johann and Maria, the daughter of Johann and Maria,
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

This daughter of Johann and Maria, the daughter of Johann and Maria,
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

There are many other children in the family, but they are not
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.
...and he was the father of this woman.

we can suppose as this family's ancestor, should have married about about 1600 at the latest, and be born at about 1575. We do not expect later researches to have other results, but they could be more exact.

Here is the ancestry line of the Kusters family we have searched:

- I. Johann Küsters from Kaldenkirchen (also known as Custodis)
* about 1575, Roman faith, married 1600 at the latest Walpurgis.
- II. Arnold Küsters from Kaldenkirchen, * about 1606, Roman faith, married in the Roman church 13 October 1629 Catharina von Hären, who died in Kaldenkirchen (Roman faith) 24 January 1679 or 15 November 1686.
- III. Paulus Küsters from Kaldenkirchen, * 1644/1646, Roman faith, emigrated in 1691 to Germantown, there he became or already was Mennonite, died in 1707. He married Gertrude Doors in the reformed church of Kaldenkirchen 16 October 1668. Gertrude was born in Kaldenkirchen daughter of Matthias Doors and Agnes... Children born in Kaldenkirchen, and baptized there in the reformed church, but later became Mennonite:
 1. Arnold, * 9 June 1669. He emigrated with his parents to Germantown and married in Krefeld 24 June 1691 Gertrud Conrads from Krefeld.
 2. Johannes, * 12 December 1670, naturalized 1706 in Germantown.
 3. and 4. died young.
 5. Elisabeth, * about 1677. Also emigrated to Germantown.
 6. Hermann, * about 1680. Also emigrated to Germantown. Settled in 1708 in Bebbers Township. Official of the Mennonites in Bebbers Township.

[Editors Note: It appears that Niepoth assumed that Paulus had a daughter, Elisabeth, based upon the 1708 Mennonite list of members in Germantown, Pennsylvania. It is thought by some that Elizabeth Kuster on this list was not a daughter of Paulus, but was the wife of Paulus's son, Johannes. If this is the case, then Paulus probably did not have a daughter Elisabeth. There is a tradition that Paulus had a daughter, Eva, who married Gottschalk Gottschalk.

Another puzzle is Niepoth's note that Arnold married 24 June 1691 in Krefeld. Johannes Kusters and Paul Kastner were among the sixty-two persons naturalized 7 May 1791 in Philadelphia, and it is believed from this that the Kusters family arrived in Philadelphia in early May 1691. Did Arnold come later to Philadelphia? Or was the bridegroom another Arnold Küsters? Niepoth does not give the basis for his statement about the marriage. We need to search for this record.

See the article by Chester E Custer "Recent Research on the Families of Paulus Kuster and Gertrude Doors" in The News-Caster June 1985, pages 1-4 for the account of the baptismal records of Paulus' son Hermanus and daughter Catrin. Still another daughter, Anna, was baptized 26 December 1677.]

* * * * *

IS THIS SUSANNAH KUSTER?

Jean M White of Wichita, Kansas, has found the following in

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IS THIS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE?

... ..

1870 census Texas, Galveston Co, 3rd Ward of
 Galveston, p 256, #429-395
 Henry Custer 40 Soda Manufacturer Prussia
 Mary " 37 "
 Henry " 14 Texas
 Emma " 11 "
 William " 9 "
 Carolin " 6 "
 Anna " 4 "
 Mary " 1 "

* * * * *

THE ANCESTRY OF SUSANNAH ADAMS

information provided by Patricia A Ostwald
 600 Juniper, Boulder, Colorado 80302

Susannah Adams was the wife of Conrad Custard/Custer (c1695-1772). Her ancestry has been a point of confusion. Patricia Ostwald has made available to Krefeld Immigrants and Their Descendants a copy of "The Addams Family in America" by Addams S McAllister which was microfilmed by the LDS Genealogical Library, film #441,492. McAllister's original manuscript is at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A transcription appears in two parts in Volume 3 Number 1 Spring 1986 and Volume 4 Number 1 Spring 1987 issues of Krefeld Immigrants and Their Descendants which is published by Links Genealogy Publications, 7677 Abaline Way, Sacramento, Ca 95823. We are reporting here the pertinent points to Susannah's ancestry. For further references and details, we recommend the aforementioned transcription.

Susannah was the oldest daughter of Richard and Gertien (op den Graeff) Adams. Richard had married twice, first (probably in 1698) to Gertien op den Graeff, and second to Alse _____. Gertien was the oldest daughter of Abraham op den Graeff. Gertien and Richard had nine children, and Alse and Richard had one child. Alse perhaps is Elsie Withers who married 22 December 1726 a Richard Adams at Christ Church in Philadelphia. Alse Adams died in 1769/70. The children of Richard Adams are as follows --

Gertien's children:

1. Susannah Adams married Conrad Custer/Custard; died between 28 June 1740 and 1 February 1747/8. [Note by P A Ostwald: Susannah was alive 28 June 1740 -- she made her mark as wife of Conrad Custer when the land of his father Arnold was sold by the heirs. Recorded in Deed Book 32, p 90 Norristown, Pa.]
2. Catherine Adams married John Morris.
3. Mary Adams married Israel Morris.
4. Margaret Adams married Paul Casselberry; died 1749.
5. Elizabeth Adams married Thomas Bull, married second 18 April 1751 Thomas Rossiter.
6. Ann Adams married James Umstatt; died 1794, buried at Old Mennonite Grave Yard on the Skippack.
7. Abraham Adams born about 1707; died 5 April 1738, buried at St James P F Church of Perkiomen, Evansburg, Montgomery County, Pa.
8. William Adams born July 1705; married Ann Lane; died 26 May 1773 in Lancaster County, Pa.
9. Isaac Adams married (Edith?) _____.

Alse's child:

10. Hannah Adams married Owen Evans

Of the above, Conrad Custard, Thomas Bull, Paul Casselberry, John Morris, and Ann Lane Adams were associated with the St James P F Church of Perkiomen, and probably Israel Morris and Owen Evans as well. [Editor's note: Records of this church may provide interesting information about the family of Conrad Custard.]

The ancestry of Richard Adams has not yet been established. He may or may not have been related to Richard Adams of Upper Heyford, Northamptonshire, England, who purchased 500 acres in Pennsylvania from William Penn in 1681, or he may or may not have been related to Robert Adams of Bedwell, Oxfordshire, England, who also bought 500 acres in Pennsylvania from Penn in 1681. [Note by P A Ostwald: After having read the aforementioned deeds, it is not very likely that Richard Adams is related to either of these Englishmen. The deeds refer to a Richard Adams who was alive after the time of death of Susannah's father, in 1747 -- it is more likely that Susannah's father was of Welch origin.] It appears that there is no valid basis for believing that Richard Adams was related to the Presidents Adams.

Abraham op den Graeff came to America in 1683 from Krefeld, Germany, and lived in Germantown, Pennsylvania. The marriage book of the Reformed Church of Krefeld records his marriage in 1679 to Trintgen Jansen of Gladbach (Trintgen is a derivative of Katharina). He was a linen weaver. It is probable that Gertien was born in Krefeld. The children of Abraham op den Graeff are as follows (not listed necessarily in order of birth) --

1. Gertien op den Graeff married before 10 October 1698 Richard Adams.
2. Isaac op den Graeff married Mary _____.
3. Margaretha op den Graeff born about 1692; married before 27 August 1709 Thomas How.
4. Anneken op den Graeff married 16 Feb 1710/11 Herman in de Haven.
5. Jacob op den Graeff born in Germantown; married 29 April 1712 Anneken in de Haven; died September 1750.

Abraham op den Graeff gave 91 acres to Richard and Gertien Adams, 10 October 1698, presumably as a wedding gift. This land today is along one side of Crefeld Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Abraham op den Graeff arrived in America 13 October 1663 with his brothers, Herman and Dirck, and sister, Margaretha. The brothers had bought 11 June 1683 from Jacob Tellner 2000 acres in Pennsylvania, a part of which was around Germantown and the remainder along the Perkiomen. They were the children of Isaac op den Graeff, who was born 28 February 1616; died 17 January 1679. Isaac was one of 18 children born to Herman op den Graeff of Alderkerk and Grietje Pletjes. Herman and Grietje married 16 August 1605. Herman was born 26 November 1585 in Alderkerk. Herman was a delegate to the 1632 Mennonite Convention in Dordrecht and there signed the Confession of Faith. Herman died 27 December 1642 at Krefeld.

Abraham op den Graeff signed in 1688 the protest against slavery. Abraham was a Burgess of Germantown, and a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly. He was immortalized by Whittier in his poem "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim."

The family of Richard Adams had not yet been established, and had been established with the IV James F. Adams in 1880. The Adams family had been established with the IV James F. Adams in 1880. The Adams family had been established with the IV James F. Adams in 1880.

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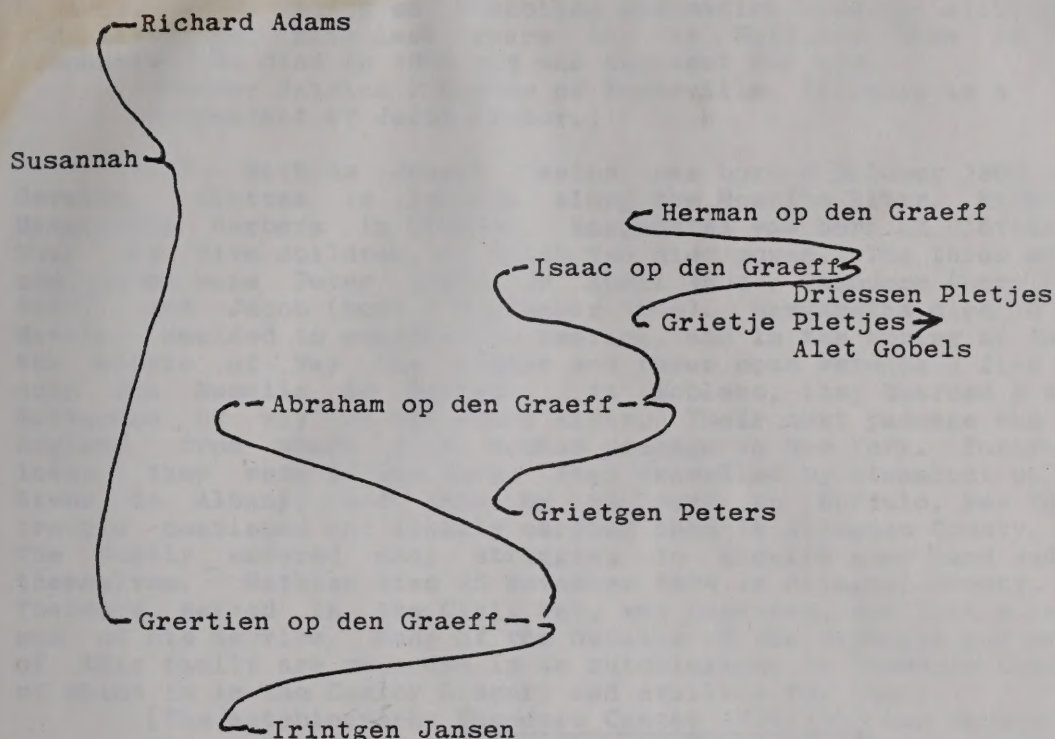
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The ancestry of Susannah Adams is briefly diagrammed here.



[Editor's Note: In the past, we have relied on Genealogical and Personal History of Buck's County, Pa by Davis, p 77-81, for information about the Adams family and the ancestry of Susannah (Adams) Custard. Also, we have used The Richard Adams Family in America by Fredd Eugene Castleberry. It now appears that these sources are unreliable in connection with the ancestry of Richard Adams, father of Susannah. We especially wish to draw attention to this for those whom we have sent information from these sources. Also, we erred in the June 1985 News-Caster, p 21, in stating that Susannah was the daughter of Richard and Alse (Opden Graeff) Adams -- we should have stated daughter of Richard and Gertien (op den Graeff) Adams.]

CASTOR COOKIN' OLD & NEW

Leland Caster's cook book is ready for delivery!! Place your orders now for this 121 page cook book featuring Caster - Custer - Kester recipes from yesteryear and present. Find out about the favorite recipes of some of the other members! Price is \$9 postpaid. Just the Christmas Gift you have been looking for!

ERRATUM

In Vol 5, No 3, September 1987, top of page 62 -- we made a mistake! We stated that Mary Elizabeth Custer married Dr William Hess. Not so -- it was her sister, Nancy "Nannie" Margaret Custer who married Dr William Hess.

served during the Civil War in Company L of the 1st Regiment of the Minnesota Mounted Rangers. John and Sibilla end their marriage in divorce. John suffered disabling rheumatism from his military service, and lived out his last years in the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He died in 1904 and was buried at New Ulm.

[Member Patrick F Castor of Naperville, Illinois is a descendant of Jacob Castor.]

III. Mathias Joseph Castor was born 4 October 1804 in Clotten, Germany. Clotten is located along the Moselle River. Mathias married Margaretha Herberz in Clotten. Margaretha was born in Clotten in 1807. They had five children, of which two died young. The three surviving to adulthood were Peter (born 29 April 1834), Theodore (born 16 November 1836), and Jacob (born 1 September 1846). Margaretha died 10 May 1851. Mathias decided to emigrate to America, and in the spring of 1852, and in the middle of May the father and three sons were on a flat boat going down the Moselle to Koblenz. At Koblenz, they boarded a steamer for Rotterdam by way of the Rhine River. Their next passage was to London, England, from where they booked passage to New York. Forty-seven days later, they were in New York. They travelled by steamboat up the Hudson River to Albany, and then by railroad to Buffalo, New York. Their travels continued and finally carried them to Alleghen County, Michigan. The family endured many struggles to acquire some land and establish themselves. Mathias died 25 November 1884 in Alleghen County, Michigan. Theodore served in the Civil War, was captured, and lost a leg near the end of his service. Many of the details of the struggle and achievements of this family are recorded in an autobiography by Theodore Castor, a copy of which is in the Castor Library and available for loan.

[The autobiography Theodore Castor 1836-1920 was donated by our member and great grandson of Theodore, Roderic E Castor of Cupertino, California.]

IV. Johann Castor was born 24 September 1819 in Clotten, Germany, son of Robert and Christina (Kaufmann) Castor. The father was a vintner, and taught his son to be a vintner. However, the Prussian Army needed soldiers, and Johann was conscripted. Johann was stationed in Kamburg, Germany where he married 16 October 1842 Johanne Christiane Jacobi. Their first five children were born during uprisings, revolutions and turmoil. The family left Clotten in 1857 on their voyage to the New World. They entered by way of Canada, and settled in Sandusky, Ohio. Johann changed his name to John Kastor in America. Today there are many descendants of John living in America.

[from The Odyssey of Johann Castor by Robert H Peterson (1972) copy donated by Carrie Webber Welch.]

* * * * *

Arnold Kuster 1669-1739

In the March 1988 News-Caster, pages 7-10, we presented the genealogical notes of Paulus Kusters of Kaldenkirchen as developed by Wilhelm Niepoth in 1954. These were located for us and translated by Guido Kusters of Huls. Among the notes of Niepoth, the marriage of Arnold Kusters and Gertrud Conrads 24 June 1691 in Krefeld was mentioned. We were puzzled by this as we have assumed that Arnold was in America in May of 1691. His father and brother Johannes were naturalized 7 May 1691

in Philadelphia. Perhaps Arnold came to America separately and later. Or perhaps the bridgroom of Gertrud Conrads was a different Arnold. This question still has not been resolved to our satisfaction. However, Guido Kusters has searched the matter further and has sent a photocopy of the church record of the Evangelical Reformed Parish in Krefeld. Patricia A Ostwald of Boulder, Colorado, has located this record on LDS microfilm #0,174,669 - Evangelical Reformed Parishes, Krefeld, Marriage Book 1677-1699 and also sent a photocopy. Patricia's husband Tim explains that the "z" on the end of Conratz is not possessive (as an "s" would be, perhaps indicating Gerdrut to be a daughter of a man named Conrad), so in this case Conratz is a surname. Patricia also points out that it is interesting that the Arnold (in America) did name his first son Conrad, and his first daughter Charity -- Patricia tells us that Charity is equivalent to Gertrude. Patricia also mentions that the numbers at the end of the marriage entry "1, 2, 3" denote the reading of the bans marked off.

Further examination of the church records in Kaldenkirchen and Krefeld may resolve this question. Hopefully, we will be able to report more on this question in a future issue.

1691 d. 24 Junij
Aret Kusters von Kaldenkirchen
und
Gerdrut Conratz von Creifelt
Z A

Photocopy of Aret Kusters marriage record.

1691 24 June
Aret Kusters of Kaldenkirchen
and
Gerdrut Conratz of Creifelt

1 2 3

The Runyan Family & Its Custer Connections

contributed by Dorothea (Mrs Robert) Schweiger
8519 Pflumm Road, Lenexa, Kansas 66215

The History of the Runyan Family is as confusing as the Custer family. The first Runyan who came to this country was Vincent Rongnion. History says that he was a French Huguenot from Poitiers, Vienne, France, in the year 1668. The first reference is seen in the records as a marriage license issued by Philip Carteret to Ann Martha Boutcher daughter of John Boutcher of Hartfordshire, England. Philip Carteret was the governor of New Jersey. Vincent and Ann (Boutcher) Runyan were married by James Bolton on the 17th of July 1668.

Vincent was born about 1645 and died November 1713. Ann was born 1650 and died about 1725. He had purchased property 20 March 1671/2 at Elizabethtown, New Jersey. He sold that piece and moved to Piscataway, Middlesex County, New Jersey, where he bought in the spring of 1677 a farm of 154 1/2 acres situated on the Raritan River. They were buried at the First Baptist Cemetery at Piscataway. Eight children were born to this union: John, Vincent, Ann, Thomas, Mary, Peter, Jane and Sarah.

We are interested primarily in Thomas Runyan [Vincent-1]. He was born 1675 and married 1698 Martha Dunn. They lived near Hopewell, New Jersey where he died April 1753. The New Jersey Archives states, "March 18, 1699: grant from West Jersey Society to Ralph Hunt...John Runion, Thomas Runion...and others all of Maidenhead, Ublington County, for 100 acres of the society's 15,000 acres above the fall of the Delaware to be used for a meeting-house; burying ground and school-house." Seven children were born to this couple, five boys and two girls: Vincent, Thomas, Joseph, Martha, Ephraim, Aaron and another whose name is not known.

Joseph Runyan [Thomas-2, Vincent-1] was born about 1704 and appears to have settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia around Harrisonburg. It is not known who his wife was (I believe that her name was Elizabeth from the custom of naming daughters after the couples' mothers -- that is, John and William both named their daughter, Elizabeth.) Date of their marriage is unknown, but place is thought to be New Jersey. They had at least four sons: John, Henry, William, and Elijah. These sons moved to Harrison County, Virginia where they are shown in the census of 1784/5.

The first son, John Runyan [Joseph-3, Thomas-2, Vincent-1] was born about 1740-1747. He moved to Harrison County, Virginia where he died 7 December 1807 near Clarksburg. He married Susannah Kuster who I believe is the daughter of Arnold [Conrad-3, Arnold-2, Paulus-1] and Bridget (Strauder) Kuster as they named their daughter Bridget, as was the custom. After the death of her husband, Susannah moved to Clark County, Ohio. A deed of Harrison County, Virginia (Book 12, Page 179) records that she as widow and her children sold property 16 October 1801. The people who signed the deed were Archibald Morrison, Jane and George Piper, George and Susannah Runyan, William and Cynthia Runyan, Lizzie Runyan, all living in Harrison County, Virginia, and John and Catherine Runyan, Abraham and Sophie Runyan, and Joseph and Elizabeth Runyan who lived in Clark County, Ohio. A deed of Clark County, Ohio (Book 15, page 298 dated 27 February 1823) records that Joseph and Elizabeth Runyan and Lizzy and Henry Curl signed a portion of that property to Adam Hickman. This property in Virginia was bought 16 October 1801 from a James Thompson. Susannah Kuster died 25 September 1823 in Pleasant Township, Clark County, Ohio. She was the first woman to be buried in the Asbury M

E Chapel Cemetery, eleven miles east of Springfield, Ohio. Their children were:

1. Bridget Runyan married 19 January 1790 Archibald Morrison in Harrison County, Virginia; died between 1790-1793.
2. William Runyan born 1774; married 22 September 1801 Mary Elizabeth Chievroun daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Elsworth) Chievrown, married Syntha _____ (a land deed shows his wife to be Syntha).
3. John Runyan born about 1775; married 13 January 1797 Catherine Richards.
4. Ruie Runyan born 1781; was kidnapped and killed 24 July 1794 by Indians [noted by Elias Hickman History of Harrison County Henry Haymond (1910), p 143]
5. Abraham Runyan married 12 April 1801 Sophia Lynch daughter of Peter and Hester (Saffron) Lynch in Harrison County, Virginia, settled in Clark County, Ohio; died 15 November 1836.
6. Joseph Runyan born 3 March 1783; married 10 November 1806 Elizabeth Curl in Warren County, Ohio, daughter of William and Sarah (Brown) Curl, settled in Clark County, Ohio; died 3 August 1854.
7. Jane Runyan born 1785; married 10 April 1805 George Piper.
8. George Runyan born 24 September 1791; married 23 January 1810 Susannah Lynch in Clarksburg, Virginia, daughter of Peter and Hester (Saffron) Lynch, settled in Clark County, Ohio; died 23 March 1855.
9. Lizzie Runyan married Henry Curl.

The only record I have of the second son Henry Runyan [Joseph-3, Thomas-2, Vincent-1] is that he married 11 October 1784 Mary Hagle in Harrison County, Virginia. He was born about 1749.

William Runyan [Joseph-3, Thomas-2, Vincent-1] was born about 1751 in New Jersey and died 1833 in Warren County, Ohio. He married Catherine Custer about 1772 in Virginia. He had a farm of 400 acres on Sycamore Creek and on the 16th of April 1792, he sold 55 acres (Bk 1, p 241) to David Devore. According to The History of Warren County, Ohio, between 1800 and 1805 he moved to Harlan Township of Warren County, Ohio. I believe that Catherine his wife is the daughter of Conrad [Arnold-2, Paulus-1] and Susannah (Adams) Custer as their second daughter is usually named after the wife's mother. The first is usually named after the husband's mother. William and Catherine died in Salem Township of Warren County, Ohio, however their graves have not been located. They had eight children:

1. Isaac Runyan born 26 March 1773; married before 1805 Nancy Ann Little.
2. Henry Runyan born 1775; married 21 November 1796 Abigail Lynch in Harrison County, Virginia, lived in Warren County, Ohio (this Henry is sometimes confused with his uncle Henry); will probated 17 January 1858.
3. Elizabeth Runyan born 1777; married 2 October 1799 William Bennett.
4. William Runyan born 1779; married 15 August 1803 Hannah Sine.
5. Susannah born 1781; married 19 February 1798 John Waggoner, married 8 April 1816 John Little in Warren County, Ohio.
6. Benjamin Runyan born 1787; married 3 May 1807 Mary Steel in Warren County, Ohio.
7. John Runyan born 1789; married 25 February 1808 Catharine Williams.
8. David Runyan born 1 March 1793; married 21 June 1814 Elizabeth Layman/Lemon, married 30 December 1829 Rebecca Sharp in Warren County, Ohio.

Elijah Runyan [Joseph-3, Thomas-2, Vincent-1] was born about 1757. We have no further information.

Rachel Custer [John-4, Nicholas-3, Arnold-2, Paulus-1] born 25 December 1775, daughter of John and ELizabeth (Hauser) Custer, married 23 April 1803 Lewis Frybarger, son of Lewis Frybarger, in Clermont County, Ohio (Rachel died 15 December 1845). Rachel's granddaughter, Rebecca Jane, married Henry Runyan, great grandson of William and Catherine (Custer) Runyan.

Sources:

The Baumgardner Family by Winnifred Beatty (1944)
New Jersey Archives Vol XXI, pages 517-518
Harrsion County Virginia Deed Books Book 12, page 179
Clark County, Ohio Deed Books Book 15, page 298
History of Warren County, Ohio W H Beers Co publisher, page 681
Marriage Records Warren County, Ohio 1803-1834
Early Germans of New Jersey by Theodore Chambers
History of Harrison County by Henry Haymond (1910), page 42

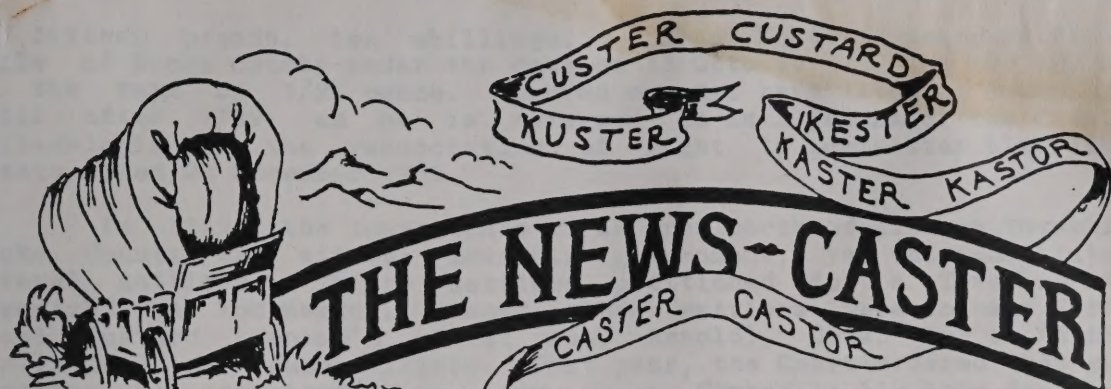
* * * * *

John McDonald's Will

Several of us have been trying to obtain a copy of John McDonald's Will and have had little luck in doing so. Margaret (Mrs Lawrence) Little of Portales, New Mexico succeeded while visiting the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. John McDonald was the father-in-law of John Caster, Sr. John McDonald operated a ferry and river packet service between Washington (Pa) and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He also operated a general store at Bell-Mont.

Washington County, Pennsylvania Will Book

In the Name of God, amen, I John McDonald of Peters Township, County of Washington in State of Pennsylvania &c, being weak in body of perfect Sound Memory thanks to God, Calling to mind the Mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament/Viz/principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to be buried in a decent christian Manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same by the almighty power of God. And as to _____ such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and devise & dispose of in the manner following. First of all that my Just and lawful debts shall be paid by my Executors. Secondly I will and bequeath all that plantation that I now live on to my Son Thomas McDonald together with all my farmers (essentials?); Yet, Nevertheless, I reserve & Save to my beloved wife Johanna McDonald the thirds of the Rents and mean profits of the above plantation during her life together with all my movable Estate to be disposed of by her at her death as she thinks proper. Thirdly I will and bequeath to my eldest daughter Rachel Noy five pounds to be paid in produce at Market price, one year after my decease, Also I will an bequeath, Katrina Noie ten pound in produce to be paid when She arrives at the years of Eighteen, Fourthly I will and bequeath to my daughter Anne Wallace five pound to be paid in produce as aforesaid two years after my death _____ (I will and) bequeath to my daughter Hannah Custard (five pounds to be paid in three years after my death.) ... (I ap)point Henry Hulce and Thos McDonald Executors of this my last will and Testament and do hereby disavow revoke



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CONRAD CUSTARD (c1695-1772)

Conrad Custer/Custard was the oldest child of Arnold and Rebecca Kuster and grandchild of Paulus and Gertrude (Doors) Kuster. We have written about Conrad before (see page 10 of the March 1984 News-Caster and page 1 of the June 1984 News-Caster). While we have some information about Conrad and his family, there remains much speculation about who all his children were. An often encountered legend of his twenty-four or twenty-seven sons and three daughters has caught many people's attention, but brings out many doubts as well. We have continued our hunt for information about Conrad and his family, and wish now to report on our current view of what we know and don't know.

Conrad was born about 1695 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, the eldest of Arnold and Rebecca Kuster. Conrad's father and grandfather were Mennonites, but we know nothing of Conrad's religious inclinations. Arnold Kuster sent his children to a school called the Friends School taught by the very learned Francis Daniel Pastorius in Germantown, and we presume Conrad was among them. Pastorius was a Quaker, and Conrad may have been the beneficiary of some Quaker influence. About 1714, his father, Arnold Kuster, moved to the western part of Philadelphia County where he had bought 316 acres of land from John Henry Sprogell in the "Manatawney tract" (now in Berks County). Conrad married Susannah Adams, daughter of Richard and Alse (Opden Graff) Adams of Providence Township, Montgomery County, Pa.

Conrad Custer appears as a signer of The Falkner's Swamp Petition (as does his uncle Hermanus Kuster) in 1728 seeking protection from the Indians at Skippack (now Montgomery County).

Conrad had paid 14th day, 1st month 1732/3 quit rents for 102 acres in the Skippack area, ten years in full. Amounts were 3 shillings and 4 pence, and 5 shillings. Conrad is listed in 1734 as a landholder of 100 acres in Franconia Township of Philadelphia County. All the evidence that we have of Conrad shows that he was in and around the Philadelphia area up through his late thirties or early forties.

On 10 October 1739, we find Conrad was granted by the Pennsylvania Proprietaries a hundred and a half (100 1/2) acres along Tinicum Creek in Tinicum Township of Bucks County for the consideration

of fifteen pounds, ten shillings. Conrad Kuster appears on the Rent Rolls of Bucks County under the date of 11 October 1739 for 100 1/2 acres at the rate of 1/2 pence. Conrad may not have lived in Bucks County until after 1739, as he is referred to as a yeoman of the County of Philadelphia in the renunciation of right to administer his father's estate dated 22 December 1739.

In 1742, the inhabitants of an area north of Tinicum Township of Bucks County was without township government, yet was inhabited by several settlers. Thirty settlers petitioned for a Township to be organized as Nockamixon. Among these settlers were Connard Custard, Arnel Custard (Conrad's oldest son, Arnold), Uriah Humble (Conrad's son-in-law) and Jacob Trimbo. That year, the Court ordered that such a township be organized. So, now we see Conrad in his late forties was definitely living in Bucks County near the Delaware River.

We know that Susannah, Conrad's wife, died prior to 1747 because the Will of her father, Richard Adams (Philadelphia County, Pa, Will Book H, page 528), written in 1747 and filed 1748, refers to Susannah as the "late wife of Conrad Kistard" and leaves 10 pounds to her children. We do not know of a second marriage, but apparently a second marriage did occur because at Conrad's death in 1772, his widow (unnamed) consented to his estate being committed to his son, Paul. Our professional researcher, Mr K G Jackson of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, has found an indication that Conrad's second wife was Margaret Morris, daughter of William Morris (see the transcribed document at the end of this article). Margaret Morris' sister, Mary, married Nicholas Custard, Conrad's son. We are not absolutely sure that the Conrad that married Margaret Morris is the older Conrad. So, we hold our conclusion in abeyance.

On 17 February 1748/9, Conrad was granted 50 more acres adjoining his earlier grant by the Proprietaries. This 50 acres also adjoined a 100 acre tract first granted to Peter Young on 9 November 1845, but on the 17 February 1748/9 it was granted to William Marks. In 1754, this last 100 acres and another 50 acres was conveyed to Conrad. Thus, with this last acquisition, Conrad then had 300 contiguous acres. This 300 acre farm was located near the present town of Revere, and the Revere school is on the farm.

There is a record of Conrad's son, Paul, being in Augusta County, Virginia in 1753. And two other of Conrad's sons, Arnold and Nicholas, bought land from the estate of Richard Tictum in 1754 in Augusta County, Virginia (now Rockingham County, Virginia). Arnold remained in Virginia near Brock's Gap, while Nicholas returned to Bucks County, Pa. However, Arnold died in 1759 leaving his widow, Bridget, and seven children. Apparently, Nicholas brought word of the good land in Virginia, or perhaps Conrad felt he should help his deceased son's family. For whatever reason, Conrad and much of his family moved to Brock's Gap in 1762 -- Conrad then being in his late sixties. Conrad sold 50 acres in Nockamixon Township to Peter Young 8 March 1762. A few of Conrad's children, however, remained behind to live in Bucks County and other nearby locales. Part of the original 300 acre farm ended up in the ownership of the son, Nicholas. His son, William Custard, had moved north up the Delaware River and settled at Egypt Mills, Pennsylvania. Another son, Richard Custer, settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

In 1762, Conrad bought 160 acres from Joseph and Rachell Dictom for 130 pounds on the North Branch of Shannandore (Shenandoah), near

Clover Lick, Augusta County (now in Rockingham County), Virginia. This is near Brock's Gap. Our present knowledge of Conrad in Virginia is still meager. Conrad died 1 February 1772, apparently in his early eighties.

Paul Kustar put up bond with Jacob Miller as administrator of the nuncupative will of Conrad Custard. In the absence of a will, the estate by law would pass to his oldest son, Arnold, and because Arnold had predeceased, then would pass to Arnold's oldest son, Conrad Custer. However, the elder Conrad expressed his wish by words that instead his estate should be sold and the money resulting should be divided among his children or representatives. Conrad's estate was inventoried 15 March 1774 with Paul Custard as administrator and some payments made to Thomas Boggs, James Marshal, Morris Custard, John Frank's bond, Henry Runyon, John Steel and Michael Humble. We do not have the final accounting of the estate settlement, which probably would reveal much of what we are seeking. The younger Conrad (eldest son of the deceased Arnold) did buy the farm of the elder Conrad and paid 160 pounds 10 shillings to his uncle Paul Kustar, Administrator of the estate.

The Revolutionary War pension application made by Joseph Kester/Custard (National Archives pension file #2690) provides evidence that convinces us that he was a son of Conrad Custard. On 18 May 1835, when Joseph was an old man, he gave a sworn statement in the Harrison County Court of Virginia, "...aged eighty two years & upwards...that he was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Virginia, when nine years old, and settled at Brock's Gap..." The arithmetic of 1835 minus 82 years plus 9 years places the time of moving to Brock's Gap at 1762 -- the time that Conrad moved his family to Brock's Gap. Lending some support to this contention is the naming of one of Joseph's sons, Conrad.

Now, for the legend of his family. It is widely reported that Conrad was the father of many children -- three daughters and from twenty-four to twenty-seven sons. These reports have been published as early as 1877. Some of the reports go on to say that all of the sons served in the Revolutionary War. How much of this is fact or fiction has been debated often and with no clear conclusion, but this does appear to be a gross exaggeration, to say the least.

There appears to be no doubt that the following seven are children of Conrad:

1. Charity Custer born about 1715; married 17 January (or June) 1735 Uriah Humble in Philadelphia, Pa, they settled in Augusta County, Virginia, and later went to Westmoreland County, Pa where Uriah died 1773.
2. Arnold Custer/Custard born about 1718; married Bridget Strauder; died March 1759 in Augusta County, Virginia.
3. Richard Custer born 1722 or 1725; married 17 January 1748 Elizabeth Brumbach, married second Elizabeth Bateman, lived in Chester County, Pa; died about 1781.
4. William Custard born 1729 in Philadelphia; married 5 August 1754 Sarah Swartout/Swartwood, lived in Northampton County (now Pike County), Pa; died 1826, buried at Swartout Cemetery near Egypt Mills, Pa.
5. Paul Kustar born about 1730 in Pa; married Lucinda Malone, married second Margaret Malone (Lucinda's sister), was at Brock's Gap, Va as early as 1753; died 1820.
6. Nicholas Custer born 1732; married Mary Morris, lived most of his life in Nockamixon Township of Bucks County, Pa; but died elsewhere,

perhaps in Erie County, Pa.

7. Joseph Kester/Custard born 1753 in Pa; married 26 February 1788 Mary Morrison in Harrison County, Virginia, where they lived until 1837 before moving to Ohio in 1837; died 2 July 1839 in Delaware County, Ohio.

Among the suspected children of Conrad Custer/Custard are

8. Conrad Custard born 1735 -- we find no evidence for this person -- perhaps this is a child that died young.

9. Isaac Custard/Castor born 1738; married Susan Hepon, lived in western Pa; died 1780 in Kentucky.

10. Esekiel Custard born 1740 (we don't know the basis of this date -- anyone having data about this person, please share it with us, otherwise we are inclined to discount it as imagination), perhaps related to the Ezekiel Custard who was born 1767 and lived in Beaver County, Pa.

11. Benjamin Custard/Castor born 1741; married Ruth Thompson, lived in Allegheny County, Pa; died January 1826.

12. Noah Custard/Castor born 1764; married Rebecca Matheny, lived in Beaver County, Pa and Richland County (in a part that later became Ashland County), Ohio; died 26 July 1829 in Richland County. [However, see the following paragraph suggesting that Noah is a grandson of Conrad.]

13. John Custard; served in 9th and 13th Virginia Regiments of Continental Line; assisted Wm Crawford 1769-1771 in surveying Virginia Veteran Lands; was killed by Indians while serving under Col William Crawford in expedition at Sandusky, 1782.

14. George Custard served in 9th and 13th Virginia Regiments of Continental Line.

15. Thomas Custard/Castor served in Capt Morriss' Company of Rangers (Va) 1792.

16. Morris Custard may have been named after the family name of Conrad's second wife; appears on tax delinquent list for Rockingham County, Va in 1767; recipient of part of settlement of Conrad Kustard's estate in Augusta County, Va 15 March 1774.

17. Susannah Custer

18. Catherine Custard born about 1745-1750; married about 1772 William Runyan in Harrison County, Virginia; died 1826 in Salem Twp of Warren County, Ohio.

In connection with the birth of Noah Castor (number 12 above), the History of Hamilton County, Indiana by John F Haines (1915), page 962 cites Conrad Castor of Brock's Gap, Virginia as his father. While this information undoubtedly originated from the descendants of Noah Castor, we wonder if Noah is the son of Conrad's oldest son, Arnold. Arnold is said to have had seven children, the youngest were Arnold (born about 1755) and Noah (born about 1758). In our searches, we have not found clear evidence of what has happened to these two, Arnold and Noah. However, we have noted Arnold Custard, Jr and Noah Custard both living in North Sewickley Township of Beaver County, Pennsylvania in 1800 and 1810, and later living in Wayne and Richland Counties, respectively, of Ohio soon thereafter. Wayne and Richland Counties are quite close to one another. We have to wonder if these are not the children of Arnold Custard, son of Conrad.

So far, we have found little in the estate papers of Conrad. The inventory has some general interest, as it provides some reflection of the material things accumulated by Conrad and family. While a few items defy identification, most are readily recognizable. We purposely have preserved the original spelling in this transcription. [L = pounds, S =

shillings, p = pence]

Conrad Custard Inventory & Estate Settlement (from the Court file)
(also from the Will Book)

"Paul Custard Apr: To the Estate of Coonrod Kustard Disceased. L -S-p

To a stone Coult three years old	5	-	-
To a Bay Horse with a snip & an old Brown Mare	3	-	-
To two Red Cows	4	-	-
To two Steers and a heifer two years old	3	15	-
To Two Heifers and one Bull year old	1	10	-
To ten Sheep and one Lamb	3	-	-
To four Sows and Six Pigs	1	16	-
To a Waggon and two pair of Old Harnas and traces	7	-	-
To one plough two Clevvisses and a link Between	1	5	-
To a panhaid plough with two Clevvisses & Swingletrees		8	-
To one Iron toothed Harrow		7	-
To two Axes		8	-
To one Rifle Gun	2	-	-
To one Musquet Gun	1	-	-
To one Grubing Hough and a sprouting Hough		8	-
To one Frough and an Old Broad Ax		3	-
To three Augers and two Gun Blets		4	6
To two Old Edges, a han saw & Drawknife & Chizzel		10	-
To two Iron Wedges and two Hings		3	6
To an old Wolf trap		8	-
To two old forks and a hough		1	6
To a griddle and a frame		6	-
To three Dutch Sylher and Hangings		7	-
To two Bells		7	-
To an old Chain molter and an old Lock		2	-
To six sickles		2	6
To an old pair of Steel yards		5	-
To an old Gum & Some Old Iron Trumprrie		2	6
To two old Hammers and a pair of Nippers		2	-
To one Saddle		10	-
To one Grind Stone		5	-
To one Barrel three Baggs & a powdering tub		7	6
To a Dresser		6	-
To a Dough Trough		3	-
To one Iron Pot		10	-
To A Slaughter hide and a horse Hide		7	6
To A fishing Net		7	6
To four Sheep Skins		2	-
To a Wool Wheel		3	6
To one Chist		5	-
To a cuting Knife and Steel		7	6
To the Winter Grain computed to be twenty Acres	5	-	-
To Spoon Moles		7	6
To one Six Hundred Reed and Geers		7	6
To one Corn Hough		4	-
To one plough plain		1	-
To one Ax		2	-
To one Carpenter Rule			7
		48	13 7
To Cash Recd for the Consideration of a Tract of Land containing 160 acres sold by the Consent of the Heirs at Law		160	10 -

209 3 7

Contra Cr

L -S-p

Cash paid Thomas Baggs	7	17	9
James Marshel Acctt		4	7
Morris Kustards Acctt	1	4	-
John Millars Bill	3	4	6
Cash paid Jacob Millar	2	13	5
Matthew Harrison's Acctt	2	10	-
Jacob Lambs Proved Acctt	2	5	6
Martin Wetzels Proved Acctt		9	-
John Franks Bond & Interest on the same	7	1	1
nd Cuthbis Harrison's Acctt	4	7	6
Henry Runyans Proved Acctt		3	-
Jos Haynses Receipt for Felix Gilbert	3	10	-
Thos Baggs Proved Acct	1	10	8
John Henrys Receipt		8	-
John Millars proved Acct		7	6
John Grattons Account	2	10	5
John Heids proved Acct		10	-
Michael Humbles proved Acct	1	13	3
Jacob Bears Bond & Interest	3	19	6
James Baggs Note and Interest	5	7	-
James Baggs Proved Acct		15	-
John Millars proved Acct		6	-
A Clarks Note 290 lb Fob	1	4	2
A Secratarys Note 40 lb Fob		3	4
the Sheriffs Receipt	1	4	3
the Cryer of the Vendue		6	-
my own private Acct & Sundries	9	4	4
three appraisors for appraising the Estate 2/6 Each		7	6
	63	17	4
Error in my own Act		10	-
	63	7	4

In pursuance to an order of Court to us directed We have Examined the above Acts and find it to be Just according to the Vouchers Produced.

March ye 15th 1774

John McClendan
John Frogg

By the amount of the Debts due from the Estate Charges			
paid on opposite page	63	7	4
By my Comission on paying & recovering L272-11-0	13	12	6
	76	19	10

At A Court held for Augusta County March the 15th 1774
The Acct of the Admin of the Estate of
Paul Custard deced was reported Pursuant to an Order of Court
and Ordered to be Recorded
Test

Sources:

Custer Genealogies by Milo Custer (1944), page 2 and pages I, XII-XIV
The Perkiomen Region, Past & Present Vol I, pp 86-7
Perkiomen Region Vol 4, #1, p 2
Publication of the Genealogy Society of Pa Vol 1, p 170

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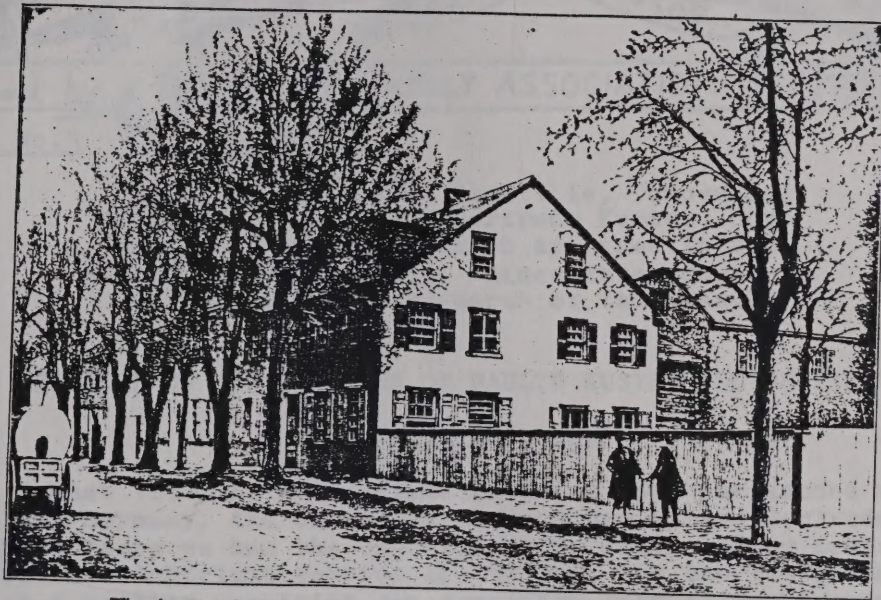
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The home of Christopher Sauer I and II. It formerly stood on 4645-4653 Germantown Avenue.

An eighteenth-century view of the Germantown market square.





The front of the building at the University of Chicago, showing the main entrance and the tower of the Old Chapel.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, SHOWING THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND THE TOWER OF THE OLD CHAPEL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, SHOWING THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND THE TOWER OF THE OLD CHAPEL.



Chester E Custer, of Nashville, Tennessee, authored "Paulus and Gertrude Kuster, our Immigrant Ancetors" which appeared in the September 1984 issue. Since then, Custer has continued his research of this family.

RECENT RESEARCH ON THE FAMILIES OF PAULUS KUSTER AND GERTRUDE DOORS

by Chester E Custer

In August 1984, my wife Elizabeth and I made our second visit to Kaldenkirchen, Germany, the ancestral home of Paulus and Gertrude (Doors) Kuster. While there we had the opportunity to visit nearby Krefeld and Kempen where also important records are housed. We had the advantage of working with a skilled archivist and tranlator from Kaldenkirchen. Dr Leo Peters had been the archivist for that area and is now in charge of cultural affairs. He spoke fluently in German, Dutch and English. He confirmed what we had learned on our first trip, that the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church records were written in a combination of German and Dutch, and that only those who know Dutch as well as German could decipher the true meaning of certain words. We had not had that level of professional help previously.

Two Unanswered Questions

As one examines the original records of the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church, at least two unsolved problems related to the family are apparent.

(1) There are two baptismal records for "Hermanus, the son of Gertrude Doors." In the baptismal accounts of Arnold (June 9, 1669); Johannes (October 12, 1670); Matthys (December 6, 1671); and Reiner (December 2, 1674), the names of both Paulus Kuster and Gertrude Doors appear as the parents. In the baptism of Catrin, only the father, Paulus, is mentioned. In the case of Hermanus, only the mother's name appears -- Gertrude Doors. One baptism is reported to have occured October 19, 1681 with witnesses Lenert Hillikens, Arent Simons and Marij Doors. The other baptism is recorded on the same page as having taken place March 15, 1682 with witnesses Peter Sieben and Marijy Doors. Are they one and the same child? Does the second entry correct the first? Were there two mothers named Gertrude Doors, each with a son, Hermanus? Or, is there some other explanation?

(2) A most interesting notation is included in the baptismal record of Reiner Kuster (December 2, 1674). After stating that he is the son of

Paulus Kuster and Gertrude Doors, it indicated the father was of the Roman Catholic religion and the mother a member of the Reformed Church. Then it states that for a period of time the mother was unable to use her mental faculties. Consequently, the grandparents assumed the responsibilities associated with the child's baptism in her behalf. The witnesses to Reiner's baptism were Wÿs Doors, Jochim Huiskens and Elisabeth Doors. Dr Peters, our translator, said that the phrase referring to the mother was strongly influenced by the Dutch language and a most unusual bit of information to be included in a baptismal record. An archivist in Krefeld read the same entry from a copy of the baptismal record he had and said the phrase literally meant "out of mind." Dr Peters suggested that although we cannot be sure of the exact meaning, the term used in that day may be similar to our referring to a person being emotionally distraught or upset, or experiencing psychological distress.

Probable Reasons for the Emigration to America

Although the question as to why Paulus Kuster and Gertrude (Doors) came to America cannot be conclusively answered, we do know that many people at that time were experiencing religious, social and political persecution. Certainly these factors must have influenced their decision to make the trip. But there were probably other reasons as well. Following our recent trip to Kaldenkirchen, I have researched the Doors family and have discovered some interesting information.

Gertrude was the daughter of Theis (Matthias) Doors and Agnes _____. Wilhelm Niepoth, a German researcher, writes: "Theiss [Doors] appears...under the names of Dahrs, Dahrmans, Peters and Peterschen. His father's Christian name was therefore Peter. His wife Neess [Agnes], had sent her children to the Calvinist school in order to escape the persecution. Theiss was forced to take them back to the Catholic school and to have the youngest child baptized as a Catholic. '1655, January 4, the baptism of Margarita, daughter of Matthias Doors and Nees was performed. Witnesses: Arnold Kosters and Elsen Booms' [translated by JBL from Latin]. So it states in the Catholic church records. The bailiff had struck the woman in the face a few days before the birth and treated her badly. The husband was fined 100 gold guilders for a violation and his goods were confiscated. At this point the government of Cleves (Brandenburg) intervened. The Elector, Philipp Wilhelm, who was at that time Duke of Jülich, decreed, in order to alleviate the Brandenburg menace, that Theiss Peters could stay and should not be further molested. Thus he continues to live in Kaldenkirchen. His wife and children remained true to the Reformed Church and school."¹ John L. Ruth writes about the same incident: "The bailiff had hit Matheis' [Doors] pregnant wife in the face, and the baby, born a few days later, was forcibly baptized Catholic. The father, a Mennonite by conviction, was fined 100 guilders, and joined the Reformed Church -- for which, at least, there was legal provision in the Catholic-ruled province."² Even though it is apparent there are some discrepancies in these two reports concerning the church associations of Theiss and Agnes, the persecution they experienced is vivid.

Gertrude would have been about ten years old when her mother was struck in the face a few days before Margarita was born, and at the time her father was fined 100 guilders and had his business confiscated. Her parents' persecution undoubtedly left an indelible impression on her.

It is noteworthy that of the thirteen families who came from Krefeld to Germantown in 1683, several were from the family of Theiss and Agnes Doors, or were related to them.

Gertrude's sister Anna (Entgen) married Jan Streypers after the death of her first husband, Heinrich Kurlis. It was to Jan Streypers that William Penn sold 5,000 acres of Pennsylvania land. Penn also sold the

same amount of land to Jacob Telner and to Dirk Sipman. Although Jan Strepyers and Anna never lived in America, it is believed that Jan made a brief visit to Pennsylvania. Their young son, Lenart (Leonard) emigrated in 1683 and learned the weaving trade. Jan's older brother, Wilhelm Strepyers, came to Germantown in 1683, permanently leaving behind his wife and five children.

Gertrude's sister Helene and her husband Thomas Kunders were among the thirteen families who emigrated in 1683. Helene went by the last name of Theissen, a name derived from her father's first name, Theis (Matthias). Eventually the name became Tyson. Thones Kunders was also known as Tonis and Dennis Kunders; his family name later became Conrad. It was in the home of Thones Kunders that the first Quaker worship service was held in Germantown. Thones (Dennis Cunders) was one of the witnesses to the will of Paulus Kuster, January 11, 1707/1708. He was the brother-in-law of Paulus.

Furthermore, Gertrude's sister Elizabeth and her husband Peter Kurlis emigrated to Germantown in 1683 with their children. And Gertrude's brother, Reiner, who also went by the name of Theissen, came to Germantown in 1683. Her other brother, Herman, emigrated a year later.

In addition to these members of Gertrude's immediate family migrating to Germantown, researchers believe a number of the other families were related to them. The sisters and brothers who had already settled in Germantown must have influenced Gertrude and Paulus Kuster to come later.

Furthermore, those who came in 1683 are said to have lived for a time in caves or cellars until more permanent dwellings could be erected. Paulus Kuster was a stone mason and bricklayer. In all likelihood there was a growing need for his skills in the newly established community as more substantial dwelling were contemplated. "The region abounded in sandstone and many of the settlers, before 1700, erected large and comfortable houses." 3

Thus, the religious, social and political persecution, coupled with the presence of Gertrude's brothers and sisters already settled in the New World, and the need for the skills of Paulus as a stone mason, were probable reasons for their migration to America.

Their Arrival in America

The date of Paulus and Gertrude Kuster's arrival in America with their family has been suggested from 1683 to 1693. We do know from the Reformed Church records in Kaldenkirchen that their daughter Catrin was baptized March 9, 1687. So, they were still in Germany at that time. We also know that Johannes, their son, was naturalized in Pennsylvania in 1691. Paul Kastner, possibly a misspelling for Paulus Kuster, was naturalized at the same time. In 1693 Paulus appeared as the head of the family being taxed in Germantown, Pennsylvania. On December 4, 1704, he purchased 50 acres of land from Henry Bucholtz. And, on January 5, 1706, he was appointed an overseer of fences in Germantown. The family would have emigrated sometime after Catrin's baptism and by 1691, although the exact date of their arrival has not yet been determined.

Their Religious Background

The Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church baptismal record for Reiner Kuster indicated that his father, Paulus, had been a Roman Catholic. Gertrude's parents had been Mennonites. As a result of the persecution they seem to have associated with the Reformed Church, if not the Catholic Church for a time. We do know that Gertrude and Paulus were married in the Kaldenkirchen Reformed Church on October 16, 1668. But when they came to Germantown, we find them as Mennonites. The persecution Gertrude's parents

experienced as Mennonites when she was a young girl, along with their pacifist convictions, apparently made a profound impression on her. Presumably this was very significant in the decision of Paulus and Gertrude to affiliate with the Mennonites in Germantown. They were among the early founders of the first Mennonite Church in America.

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1 Wilhelm Niepoth, translated by John Brockie Lukens, "The Ancestry of the Thirteen Krefeld Emigrants of 1683." The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine Vol 31, No 3 (Philadelphia Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania) 1980, pp 201-202.

2 John L Ruth, Maintaining the Right Fellowship (Scottsdale, Pa: Herlald Press) 1984, p 30.

3 C Henry Smith, The Mennonites of America (Scottsdale, Pa: Mennonite Publishing House Press) 1909, p 107.

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DESCENDANTS OF PAULUS AND GERTRUDE KUSTER

In the previous issue (March 1985) we included our notes of the families of Arnold Kuster and Hermanus Kuster, but deferred introducing the notes of Johannes Kuster's family in order to do more checking. There are some discrepancies among the sources listed about the children. We have indicated in the parentheses the source for each child. We are lacking full confidence about these notes, and would appreciate any help.

Johannes Koster/Kuster born in Kaldenkirchen, Germany, son of Paulus and Gertrude (Doors) Kuster, was baptized 12 March 1670 in the Evangelical Church in Kaldenkirchen. He came with his parents to Germantown, Pa. Johannes was a Quaker and a member of the Abington Monthly Meeting. He married 31 August 1692 in the Abington Monthly Meeting Elizabeth Cassell, daughter of Johannes Cassell, a weaver who came to Germantown from Kresheim in 1686. Elizabeth was born in Kresheim, Germany. In 1693, Johannes and Elizabeth Koster were living in Bristol, Pa. Soon thereafter, they returned to Germantown. Johannes was Constable in Germantown 1695-1697, 1700, and 1706. He bought land at Skippack, Pa in 1704. He was a Burgess of Germantown in 1707. Johannes died intestate in the fall of 1708 in Germantown, six months after the death of his father. Letters of Administration were granted to his widow, Elizabeth, 23 October 1708.

Their children:

1. Christiana Custer born 15 January 1691/2 (A).
2. John Koster born 9 June 1693 at Bristol (B); married 25 or 27 August 1717 Elizabeth Hood; died February or March 1760 in Philadelphia, buried at the Friend's Burial Ground, Philadelphia.
3. Samuel Koster/Kester born 1 August 1693 (A); married 5 December 1747 Ann Thomas; died 21 October 1757.
4. Margaret Koster born 13, 8th month 1694 in Germantown (B).
5. Rynier Koster born 26, 5th month 1696 in Germantown (B); married 31 January 1718 Annew Hewitt.
6. Jacob Custer/Custard born 1 December 1697/8 (A).
7. Mary/Margery Kester born 1, 3rd month 1700 (C) at Plumstead, Bucks County, Pa; married 27 4th month 1720 William Michener at Abington Meeting House; died 24 4th month 1758 in Bucks County, Pa.
8. Hermanus Kester born 2, 11th month 1703 (B); married 1733 Anne Large.
9. Paul Kester born about 1706 (B); married 17 September 1730 Ruth Kitchen; died about 1745-50.

10. Peter Custer/Kester born about 1708 (B); married 24 December 1733 Ann Coar; died 14 May 1759 in Hunterdon, New Jersey.

Sources:

- A. Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks County, Pa C V Roberts (1925)
- B. Custer Genealogies by Milo Custer (1944), p 1
- C. The Micheners in America by Anna E Shaddinger, pp 18-22

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LUDWIG KUSTER AND GEORGE PHILIP KUSTER
WHO ARRIVED ON THE "NEPTUNE"

by George H Custard
1255 South Hudson Street
Denver, Colorado 80222

My interest in these two early Kuster immigrants comes from my search for the parents of my great great great grandfather, William Custard (or Kester) who was born 22 November 1766 in Pennsylvania. The earliest record I have found for William is from the records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Schoenersville in Northampton County, 8 July 1792 when his first child Susanna was baptized. Ludwig Kuster settled in Lehigh Township, not more than 15 miles from Schoenersville, thus he was both the right age and in the right area to be William's father. However, I have not established a link with this family thus far. Not much has been published about these two Kusters, thus this summary of what is known may be of help to others who come from this family.

The arrival of Ludwig and George Philip Kuster 4 October 1752 at Philadelphia on the Ship Neptune, with John Mason as Captain, is shown in List 184 of Rupps' Thirty Thousand Immigrants page 283. The Neptune came to America from Rotterdam via Cowes, England. This listing may be found in the LDS Library on film #833,338.

Several years ago, Mrs Vivian Taylor, a Kester descendant and a capable Pennsylvania genealogist, allowed me to review her rough notes which had been accumulated over a number of years while researching various Kester lines. Among those notes I found the following entry from the Records of Old Goshenhoppen Lutheran Church, Upper Salford Township, Montgomery County (I have not seen the original).

"Philip Kister, Lutheran, single, born 1733, father Ludwig Kister, dec., mother Susanna, from Dorstel (or Durstel) in Alsace, 14 hours from Strasburg. Came to America in 1752, servant at Rudolph (Herbe?) at Skippack. Married Anna Maria, single, Lutheran, 25 yrs. of age, father Philip Tetisman, dec., came to America 1731, was servant at John Schneiders. Banns published 1. on Oct. 5 in Old Goshenhoppen, 2. Oct. 12 in Oley Hills, 3. Oct 19 in Old Goshenhoppen. Married Oct. 30, 1755 in my house."

The extent and detail of this record was amazing to me and it seemed probable that this was the George Philip from the Neptune.

Unable to locate Durstel on any maps available to me, I wrote to Hermann Guth in Saarbrucken, West Germany to ask if he could tell me the location of Durstel. Hermann and Gertrude Guth have written a number of articles for "Mennonite Family History" dealing with European background for genealogy. Hermann Guth not only provided specifics about the location of Durstel and related towns but indicated that the parish registers for the area were being studied by Dr Hein of Cologne. Eventually I made contact with a Mr Bernard Fey who does genealogical work in Strasbourg. Mr Fey found the parish records for Durstel and surrounding towns, read and translated them for me, and provided a wealth of interesting information

were buried at the Blackmore Cemetery on a farm in Harrisburg Township, Van Buren County, Iowa.

Their children:

1. Elizabeth Ann Caster born about 1839 in Iowa; married _____ McCann.
2. Nathaniel Marion Caster born 18 July 1841 in Iowa; married Mary _____; died 29 October 1892 in Jackson County, Oregon.
3. Benjamin Franklin Caster born 18 July 1841 in Iowa; married Amelia _____; died in California.
4. Laban Blackmore Caster born May 1844 in Iowa; married about 1870 Frances N _____.

* * * * *

DESCENDANTS OF PAULUS AND GERTRUDE KUSTER

We featured in the September 1984 issue of The New-Caster an article by Chester E Custer about Paulus and Gertrude Kuster who arrived in Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1684 with their children, Arnold, Johannes and Hermanus. Since writing that article, Chester and his wife, Elizabeth, made another visit to Kaldenkirchen and Krefeld, Germany to find more information about the Kuster family. Chester has recently retired, and has found himself very busy at the moment with post-retirement assignments. But we are looking forward to receiving another article from Chester for a future edition.

In the meantime, we shall include here some of our notes about various descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kuster.

Arnold Kuster born 1669 in Kaldenkirchen, Germany, son of Paulus and Gertrude (Doors) Kuster. Arnold was baptized 9 June 1669 in the Evangelical Church in Kaldenkirchen. Arnold came with his parents in 1684 to Germantown, Pennsylvania. He married about 1684 Rebecca _____. In 1702 he was asked to be Committeeman of Germantown, but he declined because of his religious objection to taking the required oath in Court. Arnold and his brother, Hermanus, were both very active Mennonites in Pennsylvania. A log church was built sometime between 1703 and 1708 for the Mennonites, and Arnold, Elizabeth and Hermanus Kuster were among the members then. Arnold was a bricklayer. Arnold sent his children to a school in Germantown called the Friends School taught by Francis Daniel Pastorius. He remained in Germantown until 1714 and then moved to the western part of Philadelphia County (an area now in Berks County) where he bought 316 acres in the Manatawney tract. He died in 1739 in Hanover Township, Philadelphia County, Pa. and was buried at the Manatawney Cemetery (Mennonite). Letters of Administration were granted to his brother, Hermanus, 22 December 1739.

Their children:

1. Conrad Custer born about 1695 in Germantown, Pa; married Susannah Adams, married _____; died 1 February 1772 in Rockingham County, Virginia.
2. Katharine Custer born about (1700?); married John Jenkins.
3. George Custer born about 1704; married 28 June 1731 Mary Rhodes; died 1756 in Northampton County, Pa.
4. Nicholas Custer born 4 December 1706; married about 1732 Susannah Margarethy Hoppin/Hoppe; died 10 December 1784 in Limerick Township, Philadelphia County, Pa.
5. Paul Custer born about 1710 in Germantown; married 1740 Sarah Ball; died 10 November 1783.
6. Hannah Custer born about 1715.
7. Arnold Custer Jr born about 1720; married Barbara _____.

8. Dorothy Custer born about 1724; married 8 February 1744 Daniel Tool.

Sources:

Custer Genealogies by Milo Custer (1944), page 1.

The Descendants of Paul Custer (son of Arnold) and his wife Sarah Ball

Custer prepared by Donald M Custer (1974), pages 2-3.

The Settlement of Germantown by S W Pennypacker (1899)

We should introduce our notes here for Johannes Kuster/Koster, however we wish to do some more checking, and will then list our notes for Johannes in the next issue.

Hermanus Kuster born about 1677, probably at Krefeld, Germany, son of Paulus and Gretrude (Doors) Kuster. Hermanus came with his parents to Germantown, Pa in 1684. Hermanus married 1706 Civilla/Isabella Conrad, daughter of Peter Conrad. Hermanus and his brother, Johannes, bought about 200 acres of land near Skippack, Pa and settled there about 1700. This was in area that is now included in Perkiomen Township of Montgomery County, Pa. In this area, the Skippack Mennonite Settlement began in 1702. On 8 June 1717 Van Bebber conveyed 130 acres to a group of trustees, one of which was Hermanus Kuster, for a school house and a burying ground. Shawnee Indians menaced this settlement in 1728 creating great concern among the inhabitants. Hermanus was one of the signatories to The Falkner's Swamp Petition sent to Governor General Patric Gorden Esa asking for protection. Hermanus was a farmer. A fulling mill was constructed in 1752 along Skippack Creek on the Kuster farm, and became known as Custer's Fulling Mill. In a 1756 census, he was listed as a "Blu Deier" -- a worker in wool with the skill of dyeing. Hermanus wrote his will in 1760, and apparently died about February 1760. He was survived by Isabella.

Their children:

1. Peter Custer born about 1700; married 1728 Ann Godschalk; died 1766.
2. Gertrude Custer; married Henry Umstadt/Umsted.
3. Margaret Custer; married Geshart Bohrs.
4. Modlen/Magdalena Custer; married Henry Tyson.
5. John Kuster Sr born about 1715; married first Esther Johnson, married second Catharine Miller; died 1794 in Montgomery county, Pa.
6. Rebecca Custer born about 1718; married Henry Pennebecker/Pennebaker.
7. Paul Kuster Sr born about 1721; married Gertrude Johnson; died February 1795 in Montgomery County, Pa.

Sources:

Perkiomen Region Vol 12, #46-47, pp 11-14

Philadelphia, Pa Will Book L, p 394 dated 9 Jan 1760

Descendants of Hermanus Kuster by Donald M Custer

JOHN CASTOR -- REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER OF NEW YORK

In the June 1984 issue of The News-Caster, we carried an article about John Castor, and reproduced his pension application in which he related much of his service experiences. We have recently read The Wilderness War by Allan W Eckert and published by Little, Brown and Company in 1978. For those interested in better understanding the experiences of John Castor during the Revolutionary War, we heartily recommend this book.

We also have received from the National Archives the military record of John Castor/Castorer. It is only a fragment, and reveals very little. He was a Private in Van Ness' Regiment of New York, also known as the Ninth Regiment of Albany Militia. He was under the Command of Major Jacob Ford. We received a billeting return for April 13 through 19, 1777. During that brief time, he marched 38 miles, and was credited 16 shillings 10 pence for wages, and 3 shillings 4 pence for billeting.



CONRAD CUSTER/CUSTARD (c1695-1772)

In the March issue, we reviewed the few things that we know about Conrad. We continue. George H Custard of Denver wrote in with some additional information. He explains that we know that Susannah Adams, Conrad's first wife, died prior to 1847 because the Will of her father, Richard Adams (Philadelphia County, Pa, Will Book H, page 528), written in 1747 and filed 1748, refers to Susannah as the "late wife of Conrad Kistard" and leaves 10 pounds to her children.

We mentioned earlier that we did not know where Conrad spent his early adulthood, but seemed likely that he was in Philadelphia County until about 1730 or so when he located in Tinicum Township of Bucks County. George Custard suggests that Conrad and family probably lived in Bucks County, Pa during his early married life (married about 1715) because his older children found their spouses from that area. Charity married Uriah Humble who was one of the early settlers of Nockamixon. William married Sarah Swartwood/Swartout of northern Bucks County. And Richard married Elizabeth Brumbach of northern Chester County. Charity married 1735, William married 1754, and Richard married 1748. According to Donald M Custer's The Descendants of Paul Custer (1974), there is a document signed by Conrad Custer and recorded in the County of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 22 December 1739 that refers to Conrad as a yeoman of the County of Philadelphia. The period 1715 to 1739 for Conrad is still sketchy at best.

As to the transition from Bucks County to Brock's Gap, Virginia, George Custard provides some further insight. He points out that Uriah Humble took inventory of Richard Ticktum in 1751 in Virginia, thus Uriah and Charity were in Augusta County by 1751, and perhaps earlier. Then there is the record in 1754 of Arnold and Nicholas buying land from the Richard Ticktum estate. George points out that they would not have to be present to buy, as Uriah may have done it for them. However, George adds, Arnold was certainly there by 1756 as he then appraised the estate of Casper Utt. When Arnold died in 1759, perhaps his surviving family was having problems, and perhaps prompted Conrad to locate his household in Brock's Gap in order to help out. A Revolutionary War pension application made by Joseph Kester and son of Conrad Kester states that his parents and he removed to Brock's Gap, Virginia when Joseph was nine years old. This would place the time of removal to Brock's Gap at 1762. Of Conrad's children, there is no indication that Richard, William, Nicholas or Conrad Jr (b 1735) ever lived in Virginia for any significant time.

We have had a very interesting letter from Wayne Cain of Haysville, Kansas. Wayne's ancestry traces back to James A Cain and Elizabeth Custer, daughter of Arnold Custer (1718-1759) and granddaughter of our subject, Conrad Custer. Wayne believes that Conrad Custer has been credited for children

really not his. Wayne explains that Conrad's brother, George, was killed by Indians in 1756 in what is now Northampton County, Pennsylvania, leaving orphan children. Also, Conrad's son, Arnold died in 1759, leaving several orphans. It is Wayne's belief that Conrad took care of these orphans, and is credited not only with his own, but also those of brother George and son Arnold. This is a good theory worth examining. We shall try to gather more of the facts, and see if they fit.

Children of Conrad Custer/Custard

Charity Custard born about 1715. Charity married Uriah Humble 17 January 1735 at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. History of Bucks County (Pa) lists Uriah Humble as one of the early settlers of Nockamixon Township. The Humble family located in Augusta County, Virginia in 1751 or earlier. They later located to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, probably about 1770 when they sold their land to their son, Conrad Humble. Uriah's Will was written 17 July 1773, and proven 7 October 1773. It appears that Charity survived Uriah.

Their children (according to Wayne Cain - letter 29 March 1984):

1. Susannah Humble born about 1736 in Bucks County, Pa; married James Johnson.
2. Martin Humble born about 1737 in Bucks County; died August 1774.
3. Conrad Humble born about 1738/1740; married Hannah Johnson; died 5 January 1791 in Bourbon County, Kentucky.
4. Uriah Humble Jr born about about 1741.
5. Michael Humble born about 1744; married Peggy _____, settled in Mercer County, Kentucky.
6. Paul Humble

There seems to be little, if any, doubt that Charity was the daughter of Conrad and Suannah Adams.

Arnold Custer born 1718 in Pennsylvania. Arnold married Bridget Strauder. In his recent letter, Wayne R Cain explains "As near as I can tell, Nicholas Kain and Arnold Custer left the Bucks County, Pa area and went to upper Virginia in the winter of 1740-1741. Nicholas Kain stopped for a couple of years in Frederick County and Arnold Custer may have gone on to the Brock's Gap area of the then Augusta County." Wayne continues "In 1750, Arnold Custer, Nicholas Cain, and Uriah Humble all had land surveyed near to each other in the Brock's Gap area. This doesn't mean that they all went there in 1750. Arnold Custer was there in 1745. Nicholas Cain got a warrent there in 1747, and Uriah Humble and his wife, Charity Custer, were still in Pennsylvania in 1745." Arnold died March 1759. Bridget was made administratrix of his estate.

Their children:

1. Conrad Custer born about 1742; married 10 February 1776 Elizabeth Lair in Augusta County, Virginia; died 1828.
2. George Custer born about 1745 in Augusta County, Virginia; died about 1850 in Pendleton County, West Virginia.
3. Susannah Custer born about 1747-8 in Augusta County, Virginia; married Daniel Cain; died after 1799, probably in Ohio.
4. Jacob Custer born February 1750 in Augusta, Virginia; married 21 October 1782 Catherine or Phoebe Cutner in Rockingham County, Virginia; died 17 August 1833 in Fairfield County, Ohio, buried at Custard Cemetery, Fairfield County.
5. Elizabeth "Betsy" Custer born 1751 in Augusta County, Virginia; married about 1768 James A Cain, probably in Augusta County, Virginia; died 10 August 1818 in Adams County, Ohio, buried at Moore's Chapel Cemetery, Adams County.
6. Mary Custer born about 1752 in Augusta County, Virginia; married about 1770 John Trumbo; died in Allegheny County, Pa.
7. Arnold Custer born about 1755 in Augusta County, Virginia; married 28

November 1781 Margaret Lair in Rockingham County, Virginia.
8. Noah Custer born about 1758 in Augusta County, Virginia.

Richard Custer was born 1722 according to the "Genealogy of the Brumbach Families" by Gaius Marcus Brumbach (1913). Richard married 17 January 1748 Elizabeth Brumbach, daughter of Gerhard Brumbach. Richard and his children were baptized in the Brownbach's Reformed Church in Vincent Township of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth died early, and Richard married Elizabeth Bateman. Richard died about 1781.

Their children:

1. Anna Maria Custer
2. Susanna Custer
3. Richard Custer
4. Benjamin Custer

William Custard was born 1729 in Philadelphia. He married 5 August 1754 Sarah Swartwood/Swartout. They lived close to the Delaware River, near Egypt Mills and Bushkill in what is now Pike County, Pennsylvania. William died 1826, and Sarah died 1827. They were buried in the Swartout Family Cemetery at Egypt Mills.

Their children:

1. Isaac Custard born about 1756; married Hannah _____; died 20 January 1843 in Bradford County, Pa.
2. Susannah Custard born about 1760; married about 1780 James Chestnor; died before 1848.
3. Abraham Custard born 1763; married Susannah Custard, daughter of his uncle Nicholas Custard; died 1853 in Erie County, Pa.
4. Jacob Custard born about 1768; died 1808.
5. Sarah Custard born 1770; married Isaac Randolph; died 1808.
6. Mary Custard born 10 October 1771; married 1792 Samuel Clark in Sussex County, New Jersey, lived in Mercer County, Pa; died 7 October 1868.
7. Margaret Custard born about 1773; married George Brodhead.
8. William Custard born about 1775 in Walpack, New Jersey; married Elizabeth Van Campen; died 1862.
9. Catherine Custard born 1777; married Job Burwell; died 1850.
10. Samuel Custard; married Jerusha _____; died 1855.
11. Benjamin Custard born 1782; married Margaret (Higbey?); died 31 March 1834.

Paul Custer born about 1730 in Pennsylvania. He married Lucinda Malone. Lucinda was born 1734. Following Lucinda's death, Paul married Lucinda's sister, Margaret Malone. Paul moved to Brock's Gap, Virginia with his father, Conrad, in 1762. Paul acquired 171 acres there in 1767. Paul died 1820.

Their children:

1. Richard Custer Sr born 1 June 1757 in Pennsylvania; married 14 March 1788 Jane Humble (daughter of Conrad Humble); died 14 February 1837.
2. Jacob Custer born 15 March 1760 in Pennsylvania; died 1825.
3. Susannah Custer born about 1762; married 15 October 1782 Ferdinand Lair in Rockingham County, Virginia.
4. Margaret Custer born about 1764 in Virginia; married _____ Bryan.
5. Sarah Custer born 1766 in Virginia; married _____ Lair.
6. Conrade Custer born 22 October 1771 in Virginia; married 26 March 1799 Elizabeth Chrisman in Rockingham County, Virginia; died 21 September 1845 near Warrenton, Missouri.
7. Mary Custer born 9 June 1776 in Virginia; married 28 August 1794 James Beggs in Rockingham County, Virginia; died 7 July 1833.
8. George Custer Sr born 1 June 1778 in Virginia; married Margaret _____; died 1850 near Danville, Illinois.

Nicholas Custard/Custer born 1732. He married Mary _____. They lived in Tinicum Township of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Their children:

1. Richard Custard.
2. Conrad Custard ??
3. William Custard born 1758.
4. Arnold Custard born 1770; married Ann Stewart; died after 1840, buried in North East Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania.
5. Mary Custard born 1771; married Thomas Crawford; died in North East Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania.
6. Nicholas Custard Jr born 1774; lived in North East Township, Erie County, Pa.
7. Susannah Custard born 1760; married Abraham Custard (son of William Custard).

Conrad Custard born 1735. He married Martha "Pattie" Ball. They lived in Tinicum Township, Bucks County, Pa.

Their children:

1. Thomas Custard born about 1756.
2. Conrad Custard born 1757, died 1840.

Isaac Custard/Castor born 1738. (I don't know the basis for his birth being 1738. There are a few court records in West Augusta County, Virginia during 1776-1779 showing his presence in what later became recognised as western Pennsylvania. There is an Allegheny County, Pa Letters of Administration showing he died 1780 in Kentucky. I suspect he is a son of Conrad, but the evidence is very skimpy.)

Children:

1. Rebecca Custard; married 18 June 1777 John Hawkin, lived in what became Washington County, Missouri; died about 1830.
2. Conrad Castor born prior to 1765 in Pa; married Sina _____; died early 1829 in Hardin County, Kentucky.
3. Isaac Custard; married 30 June 1801 Sarah Tucker.

Ezekiel Custard born 1740. (I don't know the basis for this. There was another Ezekiel Custard who was born 1767 and lived in western Pennsylvania -- perhaps a child of Ezekial above??)

Benjamin Custard/Castor born 1741. Benjamin married Ruth _____, and lived in Allegheny County, Pa. He died 1826. Noah Thompson and Rev J W Dean, local historians, contend that Benjamin's father was Conrad Custer of Brock's Gap, but we have no evidence other than this contention.

Noah Custard/Castor born 1764. Noah married Rebecca Matheny. He lived in Allegheny and Beaver Counties, Pa before moving to Richland County, Ohio in 1814. He settled in a part of Richland County that later became a part of Ashland County. Noah died 1829. The History of Hamilton County, Indiana by John F Haines (1915), page 962 attributes Noah as one of Conrad's children, but this is questioned by some. Conrad would have been about 69 years at the time of Noah's birth. Some suggest that Noah is the son of Conrad's son, Arnold (Arnold had a son Noah, born about 1758, and about which we know nothing more).

Joseph Kester born 1753 in Pennsylvania, son of Conrad Kester, and moved with his parents to Brock's Gap, Virginia at age of nine (according to his Revolutionary War pension application). He was living in Harrison County, Va (now W. Va.) in 1832, and moved to Ohio in 1837.

Morris Custard appears on tax delinquent list for Rockingham County,

Virginia in 1767. Morris presumably is a son of Conrad, as he was a recipient from the estate of Conrad Kustard in Augusta County, Virginia 15 March 1774. Is the Morris Custard in Mississippi Territory in 1800 and 1802 the same?

Jacob Custer -- records are very confusing to me at present. I am reluctant to present data on Jacob until I better understand them.

Other suspected children of Conrad Custer are:

John Custard served in 9th and 13th Virginia Regiments of Continental Line; assisted William Crawford 1769-1771 in surveying Virginia Veteran Lands; was killed by Indians while serving under Colonel William Crawford in expedition at Sandusky in 1782.

George Custard served in 9th and 13th Virginia Regiments of Continental Line.

Levi Custer born 10 February 1740, died 17 July 1807, buried Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery Old Section, East of Mount Clinton, Rockingham County, Virginia.

Thomas Custard/Castor served in Captain Morriss' Company of Rangers (Va) in 1792.

Mary Custer	(My information is confused at present, but
	(note the frequency of Mary and Susannah as
Susannah Custer	(a given name among the granddaughters.

We will continue our search for information about Conrad Custer and his spawn. Perhaps next year we will have enough new facts to warrant an update.

* * * * *

EARLY DAYS IN WAYNE AND HOLMES COUNTIES, OHIO

Some two dozen of our members trace their Castor/Caster roots back to these two counties. And there have been some blanks in our knowledge of these families. We began a concerted effort to find more information. Beatrice (Mrs William Howard) Fortson has worked very diligently and has provided most of the following information. We thank you, Bea, very much.

Wayne County of the State of Ohio was organized in 1808. John Caster Sr and his family left Beaver County, Pennsylvania and located in Wayne County, Ohio in 1811. The family of Arnold Caster left Beaver County 1814 or 1815. We do not know when the families of Jacob and Lewis arrived, but they had arrived before 1820.

In Wayne County, Ohio in 1820, there were the following patriarch Caster/Custer/Custerd families listed in the federal census.

Arnold Custerd
Jacob Caster

John Custer
Lewis Custerd

We do not know how (if indeed they are) these families are related. All four of these heads of families were over 45 years of age in 1820. There were six other Caster/Custerd families living close by (George, Nathan, John,



PAULUS AND GERTRUDE KUSTER, OUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

by Chester E Custer

Chester and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Nashville, Tennessee. They have three children: David and Philip Custer and Mrs Margaret Engle. Chester authored an excellent genealogy in 1973 entitled The Descendants of Jacob and Sarah Custer. He has spent forty-two years in the ministry as a pastor, author and publisher.

Many Custers, Custards, and Casters trace their ancestry to Paulus Kuster and Gertrude Doors who came to Philadelphia from Germany in 1684. (1) This is what I have learned about them.

Paulus Kuster was born about 1644. On October 16, 1668, he married Gertrude Doors in the Evangelical Church (Dutch Reformed) in Kaldenkirchen, Germany. Paulus is said to have been the son of Aret/Arnold Kuster and Catharine von Haren. Aret/Arnold was born about 1606, was married October 13, 1629, and died November 24, 1679. He was the son of Johannes Kuster who was born in 1576, married in 1598, and died April 8, 1650. Johannes married Walburgis. Johannes was the son of Reiner/Reinhart Kuster who was born about 1542. The LDS records indicate they were all from Kaldenkirchen. (2)

In 1976 I wrote to the Evangelical Church in Kaldenkirchen for the information on the family. The pastor's response on March 12, 1976, revealed the following:

"On October 16, 1668, Paulus Kusters A.M. and Gertruyd Doors A.D., both of them from Kaldenkirchen, were married.

"On June 9, 1669, Arnolit, son of Pauly Custers and Gertruyd Doors, was dedicated for baptism. Witnesses: Stina Swig, Ans Strypers, and Noulis Guys, wife of Mattis Custers.

"On October 12, 1670, was baptized son of Paulus Custers and Gertruyd Doors, named Johannes. Witnesses: Jyn Huylkens and Agnet Doors.

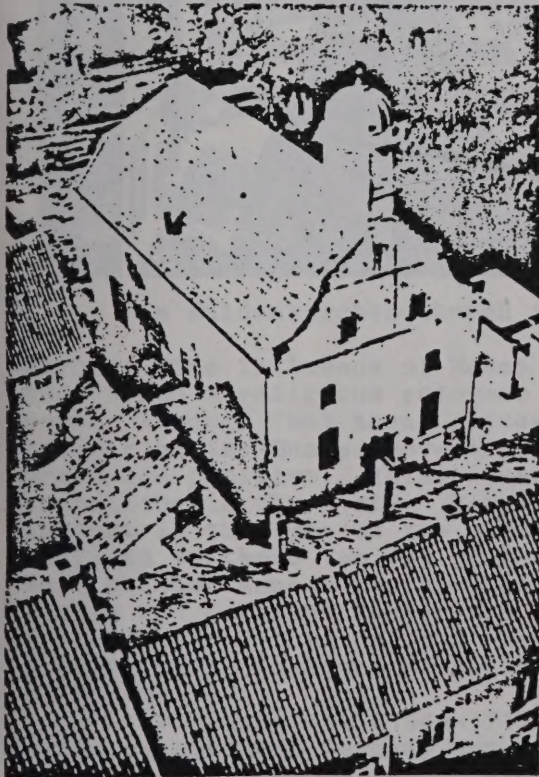
"On December 6, 1671, a son of Paulus Kusters and Gertruje Doors, called Matthys, was baptized by me, Johann Melchior, servant of the divine Word in this congregation.

"The father was from the Roman faith and the mother was a member, deprived of the right practice for awhile. The grandparents have promised the holy baptism. Witness were Matthys Doors, Jan Huylkens, and Lisbeth Doors."

(Seal attached)

Des 5 Aug.
Des 6 Decis
Des 6 Decis
Des 7 July 28 12
Des 30 July
Des 10 Decis

The Dutch Reformed church in Kaldenkirchen in which Paulus and Gertrude were married, and in which their children were baptized, is still in use today. We were told that the same pews, altar, communion and baptismal vessels used then are still used today.



vessels used then are still used today. The "kuster" of the church -- the custodian -- took us to the sacristy where the communion chalice and baptismal font were kept. He brought them out, let me hold them, and placed them on the altar. What a moment of history!

At one time there was a cemetery surrounding the church, but today only a few of the remaining stones are to be seen mounted on the side of the exterior wall.

The church is across the street from the Roman Catholic church. One must pass through a small archway from the street, go through a small courtyard, to get to the church. In fact, one could easily miss the church because of its inconspicuous location. We were informed that churches growing out of the Protestant Reformation were often located more or less "out of sight" during that period. As one passes through the archway, and to the left, there is an entrance to a building that is used for various kinds of church meetings, as well as a second-floor apartment for the "kuster" of the church.

It is interesting to note that the Custer family crest, dating back to medieval times, displays a cross with two horizontal bars. The Kuster name originally meant "one who cared for the sacristy of



The Kaldenkirchen Church interior

Europe. The influence of Menno Simons (1492-1559), founder of the Mennonite church and a religious reformer who preached against infant baptism, had spread through that area. Likewise, the influence of George Fox (1624-1691), founder of the Quaker movement, was widely felt. Both Mennonites and Quakers practiced pacifism. This placed the adherents of these religious groups in opposition to the state. Refusing to bear arms, or to take an oath, made them suspect in the eyes of the civil authorities. Such convictions were not confined to these two religious groups, however. There were sympathizers who were neither Mennonites nor Quakers. Among such sympathizers were apparently Paulus and Gertrude Kuster who were in the Dutch Reformed church. Adding to the climate of that day was the fact that an extended period of religious discrimination against dissenters had followed the Reformation throughout much of Europe.

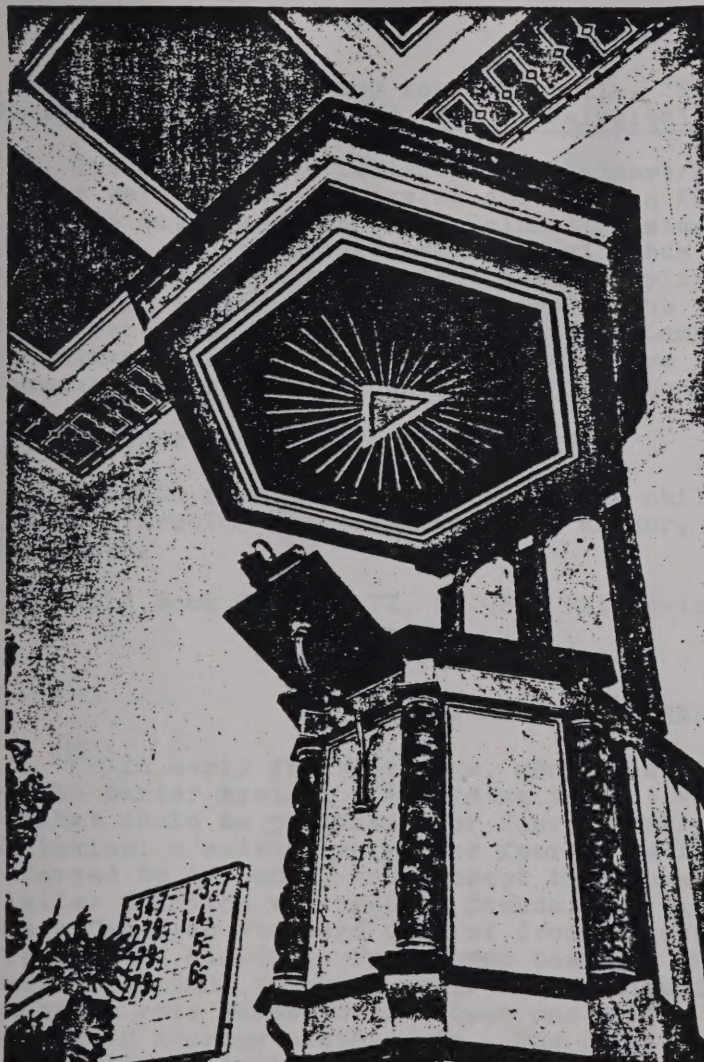
William Penn (1644-1717), the English Quaker, traveled through those parts of northern Germany and spoke of a "Holy Experiment." Europeans who had been subjected to religious and political persecution were attracted to Penn's account of life in the Colony of Pennsylvania. His plea, entitled Some

the church." Hence, the term kuster was used to designate the person in charge of the sacred vessels and vestments of the church. The kuster today has this responsibility, as well as being the custodian or sexton.

The town of Kaldenkirchen is a small village on the German-Holland border that maintains a medieval charm. Having little to no military significance, it escaped the ravages of the two World Wars. It is about twenty miles from Krefeld, Germany, from which the first group of German emigrants left for Philadelphia in 1683. You may recall that the 300th anniversary of the German emigrants who left Krefeld and arrived in Philadelphia on October 6, 1863, was celebrated with Vice President George Busch attending the commemorative services in Krefeld in October 1983. Although some of the relatives of Paulus and Gertrude set sail on the Concord at that time, they came with the second Krefeld group in 1684. Krefeld, a somewhat larger community, probably served as a gathering and departure point.

The social, political and religious climate in the Kaldenkirchen and Krefeld area -- indeed through a much broader area of Europe -- was tense in the mid-to-late 1600s. The Thirty Years' War (1616-1648) was a time of religious conflict in

Account on the Province of Pennsylvania in America was published in English, German and Dutch, all in 1681. (3) Paulus and Gertrude Kuster, along with their family and other German friends and relatives, responded to the appeal. Accompanying Paulus and Gertrude were their sons Arnold, Johannes, and Hermanus, and apparently a daughter Elizabeth. The LDS records list other children born to them, but at this time their names do not appear in the materials that describe their life in Germantown. We know, of course, of Matthys' baptism in Kaldenkirchen in 1671. The other children would also have been young when they crossed the Atlantic. Possibly they died in childhood. Or, one could surmise some of the children stayed behind with relatives, although this seems unlikely. (4)



The high pulpit

It is noteworthy that when Paulus and Gertrude arrived in Philadelphia in 1684 and settled in Germantown, they became Mennonites. They were among the early founders of the Mennonite church in Germantown. The first Mennonite service was held soon after the first immigrants arrived in October 1683 in the home of Denis Kunders. Denis Kunders' name appears as one of the witnesses in Paulus Kuster's will. The church building was not erected until about 1708, near the time of Paulus' death. Paulus died in January/February 1707/1708. Gertrude is said to have died "very shortly afterwards" on February 23, 1708. It is probable that both of them are buried in the church cemetery in Germantown, although this has not been substantiated.

Paulus Kuster was a stone mason and farmer. His name appears on the list of emigrants who left Krefeld in 1684. His name also appears on a tax list of heads of families residing in Germantown in 1693. On December 2, 1700, he was chosen a committeeman of the corporation of Germantown, and December 4, 1704, he purchased fifty acres of land from Henry Bucholtz. On January 5, 1706, he was appointed overseer of fences in Germantown.

We are fortunate to have Paulus Kuster's noncupative

will. It was during this time that the calendar was still in the process of adjusting to the Gregorian system, so this accounts for what appears to be discrepancies in the introduction. The will reads as follows:

"Germantown in the Co. of Phila. the 28th day of the 11th Month called January, Anno Dom. 1707-8, Paul Kuster, Mason (stone mason), being sick in

It is noteworthy that when Berlin was captured on April 30, 1945, the Soviet troops found a large number of German soldiers in the city. These soldiers were found in various places, including the city center, the suburbs, and the countryside. They were found in various states of dress and equipment, and some were found with weapons. The Soviet troops found a large number of German soldiers in the city, and they were found in various states of dress and equipment. Some were found with weapons, and some were found without weapons. The Soviet troops found a large number of German soldiers in the city, and they were found in various states of dress and equipment. Some were found with weapons, and some were found without weapons.

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The high point

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Body, but of perfect Memory and disposing Mind, declares before us, the hereto Subscribers, Witnesses, that his last Will and Testament was as follows: Viz. That all his just debts shall be paid and that after his decease his loving wife, Gertrud Kuster, shall have all and Singular his Estate, real and personal, during the Term of her Life, and yt after ye Death of ye sd. wife, the sd. his Estate, real and Personal, shall, nothing at all Excepted, be divided and shared among his children Equally, share and share alike.

"In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Marks. Arnold Custer. Dennis Cunders. Hermanus Kusters. Johannes Kusters. The mark of X, Cornelius Dewees." (Endorsed: Philad. Feb. 23rd, 1707-8) (5)

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- (1) David J Smucker and Robert F. Ulle, "The River's Source Was a Small Stream Named Germantown," The Genealogical Helper, Sept.-Oct., 1983, p. 10.
- (2) The LDS records indicate that Reinart/Reiner, Johannes, Aret/Arnold, and Paulus were all born, married and died in Kaldenkirchen (with the exception that the dates and places of Reinart's/Reiner's marriage and death are not indicated. To my knowledge, the family has not been traced beyond Reinart/Reiner; only his birth date and place are recorded. Johannes is the only child listed for Reinart/Reiner. The following children are listed for Johannes: Judt, Metgen, Hermanus, Aret, Lambertin, Godfried, Maria, Reiner, and Catharina. The following children are listed for Aret/Arnold: Maria, Johannes, Henricus, Catharina, Mathias, Lambert, Paulus, and Lucia.
- (3) Smucker and Ulle, op cit., p. 6.
- (4) The LDS records list the following children born to Paulus and Gertrude Kuster: Arnold, Johannes, Matthys, Reiner, Anna, Hermanus, Catrin, and Elizabeth.
- (5) Will Book C, page 72, No. 58, Philadelphia, PA

* * * * *

FRONTIER CURRENCY

In early frontier days, money was scarce. Most trade was accomplished by the barter system. According to 1761 values in the British colonies, a blanket could be purchased for four buckskins; a match coat for three buckskins; a ruffled shirt for four buckskins. Of course, these often were referred to as bucks, which crept into our slang that still exists today. A similar practice was used in Canada, but with beaver skins. The beaver skin was a Canadian standard unit of frontier currency. But their language was French, and castor is French for beaver. Thus, it was the pioneer practice in parts of Canada to price their commodities in "castors". In 1749, the exchange rate seems to have been one dollar per pound of prime skins or four pounds of average castor skin. The price was fixed at four livres (I believe one livre was equivalent to one pound sterling) per pound of prime castor, and lower for average castor skins. Traffic in castor skin trading in Canada was granted by royal favor to a monopolist who paid the French Crown officers a certain sum for each pound of castor exported.

(See 15th Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario 1918-1919, by Alexander Frase, pages 704-5.)

* * * * *

8. Amanda French born 9 December 1829; married 9 May 1853 Alfred McCormick.
9. James Hutchison French born 10 October 1831; married 25 February 1857 Elizabeth Hanna; died 25 April 1902.
10. Mary Louise French born 8 October 1833; married 5 August 1852 Howard Joyce; died 1917.
11. Sarah French born 1836 in Holmes County, Ohio; married 17 April 1853 Lewis Garns; died 13 March 1872 at Hudson, Summit County, Ohio.
12. Frances Caroline French born 1838 in Holmes County, Ohio; married John Bevington; died 16 December 1875.
13. Elizabeth French born 1840 in Holmes County, Ohio; married John Skelly; died 24 September 1879.
14. Laura French born November 1845 in Holmes County, Ohio; died 4 December 1853.

Sources:

The Farmer Hub (newspaper), Millersburg, Ohio, 30 July 1925, page 4
 The Farmer Hub, Millersburg, Ohio, obituaries
The Biographical Annals of Ohio 1902-1903

Much of our newsletter space last year was devoted to the Western Pennsylvania Castor families. We presented five Castor families, and the descendants of these five families. The five families were those of ISAAC CASTOR (1738-1780), BENJAMIN CASTOR (1741-1826), NOAH CASTOR (1764-1829), ARNOLD CASTOR (born before 1765-died 1820+), and JOHN CASTER SENIOR (1752-1822). As we admitted last year, we do not know with certainty the relationship of these families, but we have some strong suspicions. We believe that Isaac, Benjamin and Noah were brothers, and were sons of Conrad Custer/Custard. And we suspect (though not as strongly) that Arnold and John were grandsons of Conrad Custer/Custard. This year, we would like to devote some of our effort to the family of Conrad Custer/Custard and try to encourage the growth of our knowledge of this fascinating family.

CONRAD CUSTER/CUSTARD (1685/93-1772)

Conrad was born about 1685 to 1693 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, the eldest of Arnold and Rebecca Kuster. Conrad's father, Arnold, came to America in 1684 as a young man and with his parents and two brothers. They settled in Germantown when the town was very young, in fact during its second year. Germantown was just five miles north of Philadelphia, and Philadelphia, too, was then just recently founded in 1682. So, Conrad's birth occurred at a very early period of the development of the Pennsylvania Colony. Conrad's father and grandfather were Mennonites, but we know nothing of Conrad's religious inclinations. The Mennonites and Quakers were very compatible, and often a member of one faith would change to the other. Arnold Kuster sent his children to a school called the Friends School taught by Francis Daniel Pastorius in Germantown, and we presume Conrad was among them. About 1714, Arnold moved to the western part of Philadelphia County where he had bought 316 acres of land from John Henry Sprogell in the "Manatawney tract" (now in Berks County). Conrad married Susannah Adams, daughter of Richard and Alse (Opden Graff) Adams of Providence Township, Montgomery County, Pa.

In 1738, we find Conrad living in Bucks County, Pa near the Delaware River. We don't know where Conrad spent his early adulthood, but the fact that one son was born 1729 in Philadelphia, and his daughter, Charity Custer, married 1735 in Philadelphia suggests that he did not move to Bucks County until after 1735. But on the other hand, he could have moved as early as 1730. So, sometime during the 1730s, Conrad located in Bucks County. It is a matter of record that in 1738 Conrad owned a "hundred and a half" (I presume 150) acres along Tinicum Creek in Tinicum Township of Bucks County. A few years ago, I drove along Tinicum Creek, and found the country to be very hilly, still largely wooded, and quite beautiful. The views along the

Delaware River are natural and breath-taking.

While living in the Tinicum Township area, some of Conrad's children may have crossed the Delaware River to live in New Jersey. We find scattered reports of Kesters living in New Jersey.

It is said that Susannah, Conrad's wife, died about 1747. We do not know of a second marriage, but apparently a second marriage did occur because at Conrad's death in 1772, his widow (unnamed) consented to his estate being committed to his son, Paul.

There is a record of Conrad's son, Paul, being in Augusta County, Virginia in 1753. And two other of Conrad's sons, Arnold and Nicholas, bought land from the estate of Richard Tictum in 1754 in Augusta County, Virginia (now Rockingham County, Virginia). It appears that Arnold remained in Virginia while Nicholas returned to Bucks County, Pa. Later we find several Custers in this region, called Brock's Gap, Va. Apparently, Nicholas brought word of the new land purchase, and Conrad and much of his family moved to Brock's Gap in 1762 or earlier. A few, however, remained behind to live in Bucks County and other nearby locales.

In 1762, Conrad bought 160 acres from Joseph and Rachell Dictom for 130 pounds on the North Branch of Shannandore, near Clover Lick, Augusta County, Va. Conrad is said to have established a trading post and a mill at Brock's Gap. Conrad died 1 February 1772.

Now, let us introduce the legend of his family. It is widely reported that Conrad was the father of many children -- three daughters and from twenty-four to twenty-seven sons. These reports have been published as early as 1877. Some of the reports go on to say that all of the sons served in the Revolutionary War. How much of this is fact or fiction has been debated often and with no clear conclusion. Before advancing an opinion, let us outline what little we know about the children. Please bear in mind that many of these are not authenticated.

1. Charity Custer born about 1715; married 17 January (or June) 1735 Uriah Humble in Philadelphia, Pa, they settled in Augusta County, Virginia, and later went to Westmoreland County, Pa where Uriah died 1773.
2. Arnold Custer/Custard born about 1718; married Bridget Strauder; died March 1759 in Augusta County, Virginia.
3. Richard Custer born 1722 or 1725; married 17 January 1748 Elizabeth Brumbach, married second Elizabeth Bateman, lived in Chester County, Pa; died about 1781.
4. William Custard born 1729 in Philadelphia; married 5 August 1754 Sarah Swartout/Swartwood, lived in Northampton County (now Pike County), Pa; died 1826, buried at Swartout Cemetery near Egypt Mills, Pa.
5. Paul Kustar born about 1730 in Pa; married Lucinda Malone, married second Margaret Malone (sister), was at Brock's Gap, Va as early as 1753; died 1820.
6. Nicholas Custer born 1732; married Mary _____, lived most of his life in Tinicum Township of Bucks County, Pa; but died elsewhere (Erie County, Pa?).
7. Conrad Custard born 1735; married Martha "Pattie" Ball, lived in Tinicum Township of Bucks County.
8. Isaac Custard/Castor born 1738; married Susan Hepon, lived in western Pa; died 1780 in Kentucky.
9. Esekiel Custard born 1740, lived in Beaver County, Pa.
10. Benjamin Custard/Castor born 1741; married Ruth _____, lived in Allegheny County, Pa; died January 1826.
11. Joseph Kester/Custard born 1753 in Pa; lived in Brock's Gap; was on a list of militia paid off at Fort Pitt in 1775, perhaps were Colonial troops in Dunmore's War; he served 7 months as a private in Rev War under Capts Biddle and Huston in a Va Regt commanded by Major Hamilton and Colonels Nalls and Harris; he was appointed as constable in his district by Rockingham County Court 27 April 1778; he was listed as a member of a grand jury in Rockingham County, Va 28 April 1778; he was in Harrison County, Va 1832-1835 and was granted a Rev. War pension (Va # 2133 and US # S 2690); moved to Ohio in 1837.

12. Noah Custard/Castor born 1764; married Rebecca Matheny, lived in Beaver County, Pa and Richland County (in a part that later became Ashland County), Ohio; died 26 July 1829 in Richland County.
 13. Mary Custer/Custard born 25 October 1771; married Samuel Clark Sr, lived in Clarksville, Mercer County, Pa from 1804 until her death; died 7 October 1863.
 14. Jacob Custer born ?, died at age 97. (S 16093 Jacob Custard was born February 1750, was a resident of Rockingham County, Va, enlisted in 1775, applied for a pension 9 Nov 1832 when he lived in Jackson Twp, Perry County, Ohio; he died 17 August 1833 -- also Jacob Custard, 84, Perry County, Ohio, militia pension appears on list compiled by Secretary of War in 1835) (S 22349 Pa Jacob Kuster) (S 9140 Pa Jacob Castor) (appears on militia records in Rockingham County, Va 1788 & 1789 & 1792) (1800 was on Standing Committee for elections in Rockingham County, Va)
- Among the suspected children of Conrad Custer/Custard are:
15. John Custard; served in 9th Va Regt of Continental Line and 13th Va Regt of Continental Line; assisted Wm Crawford 1769-1771 in surveying Virginia Veteran Lands; was killed by Indians while serving under Col William Crawford in expedition at Sandusky, 1782.
 16. Levi Custer born 10 February 1740, died 17 July 1807, buried Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery Old Section, East of Mount Clinton, Rockingham County, Virginia.
 17. George Custard served in 9th Va Regt of Continental Line and 13th Va Regt of Continental Line
 18. Thomas Custard/Castor served in Capt Morriss' Company of Rangers (Va) 1792.
 19. Morris Custard appears on tax delinquent list for Rockingham County, Va in 1767; recipient of part of settlement of Conrad Kustard's estate in Augusta County, Va 15 March 1774.
 20. Susannah Custer

If anyone has additional informaton to add to this, please write. We are desirous of learning all we can about Conrad and his family.

In the next issue, we will describe some of the families of Conrad's children.

LELAND CASTER'S TRIP REPORT 1983

We are continuing Leland's report of his trip in which he gathered Castor information in Hamilton County, Ind. and Daviess County, Missouri.

HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA -- Land Deeds

	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Recorded</u>
Nathan Caster to James Muhin	E	236	1836
Nathan Caster to Sam Garrett	E	237	1836
Uriah Caster to James Mehin	E	239	1836
Lalathial Caster to E Brook	F	93	1837
Lalathial Caster to J Weese	F	96	1837
John Caster to Rich B Goe	F	488	1838
John Caster to Carlin Fletcher	F	573	1839
John Caster to Wm Caster	F	574	1839
Wm Caster to F W Emmons	F	665	1839
Rezin Caster to Tho Motherill	H	163	1841
Rezin Caster to H G Reynolds	H	164	1841
William Caster to Sam Johnson	H	215	1841
Unah (Uriah?) Caster to John Caster	H	686	1842

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Welcome, Shirley J Hannaford (|

Gene's Genes-Ballentine Ancestors

Entries: 2884 **Updated:** Mon Apr 15 18:19:02 2002 **Contact:** [Gene Ballentine Rooks](#) <GeneR

This GedCom is constantly being revised and updated as new information develops and errors a

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[Display pedigree in text format](#)

8 Richard ADA

B: EST 1635
P: England
M:
P:
D: 1717
P: Up.Heyfor

4 John ADAMS

B: EST 1656
P: England
M:
P:
D: AFT 1717
P: England

9

B:
P:
D:
P:

2 Richard ADDAMS

B: BEF 1675
P: Up.Heyford, N'hamptonshire Eng
M: ABT 1698
P: Germantown, Phila. Co., PA
D: 1747
P: Providence, Montgomery Co., PA

5

B:
P:
D:
P:

10

B:
P:
M:
P:
D:
P:

11

B:
P:
D:
P:

1 Isaac ADDAMS

B:
P:
D:
P:

12 Isaac OP DEU

B: 28 FEB 16
P: Krefeld, G
M: EST 1640
P: Krefeld, G
D: 17 JAN 16
P: Krefeld, G

6 Abraham OP DEN GRAEF

B: EST 1651
P: Krefeld, Germany

- vi. ROGER NORROD, b. 27 June 1936, Tennessee , Overton County; d. 17 January 1997, Tennessee; m. DELLA JEAN PADGETT.
 - vii. ALICE ALMEDA NORROD, b. 12 August 1945, Tennessee , Overton County; m. DOUGLAS LINTON REED, 10 August 1963.
-

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op den Graeff

Film 1035720 #3

Updegrove

Vgl. I

1. Herman (1585-1642) m. Grietje liv. Aldekerke, Germany

- 2. child
- 3. Trinken
- 4. Hester
- 5. Abraham (1610-1656)
- 6. Trinken
- 7. Hallerkin
- 8. Isaac (1616-1679)
- 9. Jacob
- 10. Alletjen
- 11. child
- 12. Dirck
- 13. daughter
- 14. Alletjen
- 15. Andreas
- 16. Fricken
- 17. Susanna
- 18. Andreas
- 19. Jacob

1.5. Abraham m. Eva Van der Legen liv. Grefelt, Germany

20. Herman m. Hester Van Begger and Catherine Lamerts Von der Pypen

1.5. 21. Abraham

1. 8. Isaac m. Margret (Gertjen)

- 22. Herman (-1708)
- 23. Dirck
- 24. Abraham (1651-1731)
- 25. Margaret

1.8.22. Herman m. Elizabeth Van Bebbler and Debora

- 26. Margret
- 27. Elizabeth
- 28. Isaac (1693-1747)
- 29. Sytje

liv. Grefelt,
Germantown,
Mispillion Hd., Ken
Co., Del.

1.8.22.28. Isaac m. Rachel Linton. Liv. Germantown, Mispillion Hd.

- 30. Joseph
- 31. William (1721-1756)
- 32. John (-1772)

1.8.22.28.31. William m. Sarah

- 33. Mary
- 34. Sary

1.8.22.28.32. John m. Sarah

- 35. Sary
- 36. Elizabeth

1.8.24. Abraham m. Catherine (Trinkje) liv. Germantown, Skippack, Perkiomen

- 37. Isaac
- 38. Gentien
- 39. Jacob (1687-1750)

125 110th Ave. S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98004
August 2, 1988

Dear Shirley,

Finally got your things together. Worked the last two weeks at my wife's library helping her put code numbers on her books. They are going to a computer checkout. Only problem is the computer hasn't arrived yet.

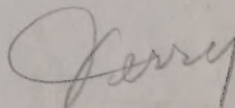
Am feeling 100% better. Yesterday I wired the hallway for track lighting. Now I must begin painting the inside of the house. I started before I left for Fort Wayne and haven't resumed yet. We are painting everything an off white, hoping it will make the house look bigger. As you grow older one tends to collect more and more things, which make the place look more and more crowded. Don't want to add on, so will experiment other ways.

I put the will on top. It says that Williams wife's name is Synthia. However, the **Newscaster**, vol 6, #2, page 43, says this is his second wife. By the way, do write the author of this article, for she is the one who helped me out so much. Her name is Dorothea Schweiger, 8519 Pflumm Road, Lenexa, Kansas 66215. Also, the editor of the **Newscaster** is very knowledgeable on the Runyans and Casters. Be sure to write him also. His name is Charles E. Scholer, 2103 Plantation Drive, Richmond, TX 77469. Another person to write is Chester E. Custer. He has done much research on the Custers and has published a book that is at the Salt Lake library. His address is: 831 Rodney Drive, Nashville, Tenn 37205. He is harder to get information out of though. If you have a particular question he will be more likely to answer than if you asked a general question.

As you can see, I like the **Newscaster**. I feel it is the best family newsletter in the genealogy field. People are submitting so many good articles with new research, that it makes it well worth its price. Charles Scholer can give you information on it if you are interested in it, and feel that you do have the Custers.

Again I want to thank you and Maurice for the delightful day I spent at your home. I do hope that this information will be of some help to you.

Sincerely,



Jerome D. Bosley

125 110th Ave. S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98004
August 2, 1982

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Jerome D. Bosley

NETHER-
LANDS

Krefeld

Kaldenkirchen

DUSSELDORF

Kaster

Julich

AACHEN

BONN

COLONGE

WEST
GERMANY

Coblenz

Cochem

LUXEMBOURG

MOSELLE
RIVER

• Aussen (Schmelz)

• Lebach

Fameck • Hayange

METZ

FRANCE

